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'EDUCATE GIRLS'

Indian NGO wins Magsaysay Award

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Mahua Moitra booked for comments on Shah

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Harmanpreet powers India into Super 4s

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India, China committed to fair resolution of border issue: Modi

After PM meets the Chinese President, MEA says ready for 'reasonable and mutually acceptable' solution on border; Xi says border issues should not define overall relations; Foreign Secretary says India, China economies can stabilise world trade

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh
TIANJIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday, underlined the importance of peace and tranquillity on the India-China border for continued development of bilateral relations.

Meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin, the two leaders agreed on the need to strengthen people-to-people ties through direct flights and visa facilitation, building on the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and tourist visas, amid an improving relationship between the neighbours. Mr. Xi said the border issue should not define overall relations.

Improved ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin. PMO

"The two leaders noted with satisfaction the successful disengagement last year and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the border areas since then. They expressed commitment to a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement following the meeting.

Mr. Modi called for mutual support in combating terrorism and the two leaders exchanged views on balanced bilateral trade, recognising that their economies could stabilise world trade, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a press briefing on Sunday night.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Both countries are victims of terrorism, Modi tells Xi

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

In what could be a shift in New Delhi's recent positions on the issue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Chinese President Xi Jinping that both countries are "victims" of terrorism, and should work together to combat the "scourge".

Responding to the media about whether Mr. Modi raised the issue of terrorism and the Pahalgam attacks, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said it was discussed at the meeting.

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NEARBY

IAS, KAS officers redistributed

BENGALURU
The Urban Development Department has issued orders redistributing IAS, IPS, and KAS officers in the BBMP between the Greater Bengaluru Authority and five corporations in the city. » PAGE 2

BJP leaders to converge on Dharmasthala

MANGALURU
The BJP will take out a State-wide rally and hold a huge convention in Dharmasthala on Monday, to press for a NIA probe to uncover the "larger conspiracy" behind the slander against Manjunatheshwara temple. » PAGE 6

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 7

Calm waters

Adieu to idol: Kashmiri Pandits carrying an idol of Ganesha on a boat for immersion in the Jhelum river to mark Ganesh Chaturthi in Srinagar on Sunday. IMRAN NISSAR

Dasara is a secular festival; decision to invite Banu Mushtaq appropriate: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Making it clear that the Dasara celebration was "secular and non-religious", Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has defended his decision to invite Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate this year's festivities.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to reporters at Mysuru airport on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

'Nada Habba'

As Dasara is celebrated as "Nada Habba" by people belonging to all faiths, Mr. Siddaramaiah said here on Sunday that it was not necessary that only people of a particular religion should inaugurate the festival.

Fielding queries from reporters at the Mysuru airport, Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled that poet Nisar Ahmed, a Muslim, had inaugurated Dasara, which, he said, was celebrated by Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jains and Buddhists alike.

"Even during the times when there was no rule of the Maharajas, Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan celebrated Dasara. Dewan Mirza Ismail too celebrated Dasara. It is a secular and non-religious festival," Mr. Siddaramaiah contended.

Defending his decision to invite Ms. Mushtaq after the Dasara High Power Committee authorised him as "appropriate", Mr. Siddaramaiah said there were very few Booker Prize winning writers.

On opposition

When his attention was drawn to the opposition from the BJP, Mr. Siddaramaiah said only "religious bigots" were questioning the choice of Ms. Musthaq. "They do not know history. It would be good for them to learn history," he remarked before pointing out that BJP leaders were making statements on the issue for the sake of "politics".

Dismissing BJP's charges that Ms. Mushtaq had disrespected Kannada with her alleged statements against Goddess Bhuvaneshwari, Mr. Siddaramaiah asked if she would be able to write in Kannada if she did not have respect, pride and admiration for the language. He said the BJP was only looking for excuses and was not speaking from a secular perspective.

He also dismissed Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok's statement the writer eats beef. "Who has seen her eating beef?" he asked before terming Mr. Ashok's statement as "hypocritical talk".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Kolhapuri footwear makers seek PRADA's support

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Kolhapuri footwear makers in Athani have appealed to PRADA, a Italian fashion house that is facing allegations of "stealing" design ideas from India, to set up a training centre for artisans in Athani in Belagavi district.

This follows a visit of PRADA designers to Kolhapur last week. The European company had faced criticism after one of its footwear had a striking resemblance to Kolhapuri footwear. The Italian team interacted with artisans and traders in Kolhapur, but they are yet to visit Athani and surrounding villages where the footwear is traditionally made.

A customer at a Kolhapuri footwear shop in Belagavi. FILE PHOTO

"Most of the production of Kolhapuri footwear happens in Karnataka, while most of the sale is in Maharashtra. They are named after the city they are sold in, not made in. Maharashtra artisans, some of whom are our relatives, have told us that PRADA designers promised them training, scholarships and commissioned production. We are seeking similar benefits too," said Shivaraj Soudagar, who runs a Kolhapuri footwear-making cluster in Athani.

Manmanth Kumar, an artisan from Madabhavi, near Athani, said that remunerative prices for Kolhapuri footwear would sustain the craft.

"Children of most artisans are out of the craft now. They are taking up menial jobs like security guards and sweepers in big cities. If our footwear get better prices, there is a likelihood of at least young men and women coming back to take it up," he said.

Babu Jagjivan Ram Karnataka Leather Industries Development Corporation (LIDKAR) is coordinating with the Italian fashion house, Rakesh Kumar, Commissioner, Social Welfare, said. "Welfare of artisans will form the basis of all our negotiations with PRADA," he said.

K.M. Vasundhara, managing director, LIDKAR, said Karnataka was the first to send a legal notice to PRADA following the controversy. "PRADA would not take up developmental or corporate social responsibility initiatives without involving Karnataka. They are willing to train our artisans and help them sell their produce for better prices, by commissioning craft works or branding local production. They have offered to take artisans to Italy or send their resource persons here," she said.

She further said that officials from Karnataka and Maharashtra had held a first round of meeting with PRADA officials. "They asked for some details from us like the infrastructure being provided to artisans, compliance of child labour norms, etc. We told them our cluster facilities are of global standards. We are providing all details. A second meeting is scheduled for September," she added.

Launch of 'Annapoorna Scheme' for sanitation workers today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what is being touted as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is set to roll out the 'Annapoorna Scheme' for its sanitation workforce.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will formally launch the scheme on Monday by distributing smart cards to sanitation workers.

Announcing the initiative, BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said the scheme "reflects the board's commitment to combining technology with compassion".

"Bengaluru will be the first city to provide direct financial assistance for daily breakfast to sanitation workers. This is our way of saluting the relentless efforts of those who keep our city clean. We want every worker to begin the day with good health, nutrition, and respect," he said.

Under the scheme, more than 700 sanitation workers will be provided smart cards powered by Axis Bank. Each card will be credited with ₹1,500 per month, which workers can use at food outlets of their choice, giving them the flexibility in choosing their meals.

BWSSB has described the scheme as a "Smart city with a humane touch" initiative and hopes it will serve as a model for other metropolitan cities across India. The board has also indicated plans to bring in more welfare measures for sanitation staff.

Demand

However, sanitation workers' unions have raised concerns about the limited coverage of the scheme.

S. Balan, president of the BWSSB Gottigai Karmikara Sangha, said, "Providing canteen facilities has been our long-standing demand. While this scheme is welcome, it only benefits around 1,400 workers and leaves out more than 3,000 contract sanitation workers. We urge the government to extend the benefits to all."

A sneak peek into India's talent pool

The IPL contributes to the diversity in T20 cricket and the State-run leagues function as a feeder system

R. Kaushik

India's Twenty20 International captain played the last of his 37 One-Day Internationals some 21 months back. Their bruising young left-handed opener hasn't yet represented the country in a 50-over international, while another left-hander who bats at No. 3 or No. 4 has been waiting to add to his four ODI caps since December 2023.

Suryakumar Yadav, Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma respectively are crucial cogs in the Indian 20-over wheel – Abhishek has impressed the decision-makers so much that they couldn't fit the exceptional Yashasvi Jaiswal into their scheme of things for the T20 Asia Cup beginning next week – but they are no more than on the fringes when it comes to the longer white-ball format. They are prime examples right now of T20 specialists, though in the not-so-distant future, that could change in the case of Abhishek and Tilak, if not necessarily Suryakumar.

Contrary to expectations, India's T20I squads in recent times haven't always been filled with personnel exclusively cherry-picked for the shortest version alone. True, apart from the aforementioned trio, left-handed batters Shivam Dube (who also bowls reasonable right-arm medium-pace) and Rinku Singh are primarily considered only for the 20-over shootout, but there are others who figure in the 50-over action, among them Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Varun Chakaravarthy (of late) and Arshdeep Singh.

And then, there are those who are regulars in all three squads – Shubman Gill, the Test captain who is back in the T20I fold after 13 months, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav. The list would have been longer, one suspects, had Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli not retired from T20Is after the World Cup last year, indicating that while the selection committee is inclined towards plumping for experts suited to meet the unique demands of 20-over cricket, they aren't so straitjacketed that they are willing to overlook those that are proficient in all three formats.

The Asia Cup squad comprises 15 of India's best 20-over players, but a case can easily made out for at least another dozen players who wouldn't have been out of place had they been picked instead. It goes to show the strength in depth of India's 20-over resources (specific to this line of thought). Like they showed with their stunning exploits in the drawn Test series in England with several playing in that country for the first time, there are plenty of options when it comes to the red-ball version too, a tribute to India's talent-spotting and nurturing process that is embellished by the huge pool that one can dip into.

Cliched and convenient as it might sound, the Indian Premier League has emerged as a wonderful production line that has opened up avenues for players who might otherwise have wallowed in the anonymity of domestic cricket, never mind how spectacular their exploits were. The Duleep Trophy, at one stage the final rung of the ladder in the ascent to Test cricket, is currently underway at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, but it has hardly attracted any attention despite the presence of several big names. There is no telecast of the matches (the final will be an exception, we have been told).

The sprawling campus and the terrific facilities for cricketers have attracted rave reviews for great attention to even the minutest detail, but the few journalists who brave the Bengaluru traffic and travel more than 40 kilometres each way have had to contend with makeshift arrangements even though big-ticket domestic games are set to be played on a more consistent basis at the three well-maintained grounds. That just goes to show that for all the lip service to domestic cricket, there is a general apathy that starts from the top.

The domestic route was once the pathway to the national side, but it wasn't that difficult for even special talents to slip through the cracks. Scouting wasn't as robust a mechanism as it is today, even though things did improve once the National Cricket Academy was set up at the turn of the millennium and its Talent Resource Development Officers wing got down to business. Because of the sheer volume of matches at the domestic level, it was humanly impossible for the national selectors to be present at all venues.

Platform

What the IPL has done is provide the players who might otherwise have gone unnoticed a platform to showcase their skills to a larger global audience. The route to the IPL itself is facilitated today by the numerous state association-driven T20 leagues which serve as a feeder for the ten franchises who look for uncapped Indian talent to boost their fortunes. Gone are the days when every cricketer believed that the First Class game - with Test cricket at its apex - was the ultimate dream. Today, because the avenues are manifold and because it is possible to make a livelihood out of playing 20-over cricket alone, many (but not all) players are happy to abandon the backbreaking, spirit-sapping commitment towards the five-day game and put all their eggs in the T20 basket, which is why India is able to summon resources that might have been available in the past too, but that somehow couldn't surface from the deep for obvious reasons.

Of course, this is not to say that Suryakumar isn't desirous of playing Test cricket again (his only Test appearance was in February 2023), or that Abhishek and Tilak will turn down the opportunity, should it come their way, of donning the white flannels. Even in India, with its profusion of 20-over specialists, the allure of the Test format is still compelling. Superstars like Kohli and Bumrah, more than anyone else, have ensured that the Test cricket fire is burning bright. Kohli has been a vocal advocate and the perfect brand ambassador for Tests while Bumrah is a shining example of not taking the easy way out. Given issues with his back and the polarising fallout of his unavailability for all five Tests in England, it could have been tempting for the pacer supreme to give up the five-day game and stamp his imprint on the two white-ball formats alone internationally. But because the pull of the longest version is irresistible, Bumrah hasn't so much as contemplated going down that route.

But not everyone is blessed with the ability, the temperament and the raging ambition to play and succeed in Test cricket; there is no shame or disgrace in that. India made their Test debut 93 years back. In all, they have played 594 Tests; Anshul Kamboj, who made an unflattering maiden appearance in Manchester recently, is only the 318th to represent the nation in Test cricket. Many of those 318 players haven't figured in more than one or two Tests; it just goes to show that not only is it extremely difficult to breach the Test barrier, it's equally (if not even more) tough to stay relevant in Test cricket.

A Test cap was the ultimate goal once upon a time, but it's no longer the be-all and end-all because of the abundance of opportunities that the other two formats offer. True, 50-over cricket is in a desperate battle to stave off irrelevance and lack of context - Shreyas Iyer, overlooked for the Asia Cup, is one of the very, very few ODI specialists - and its cause hasn't been helped by the T20 upstart, but it does assume prominence when the World Cup or the Champions Trophy comes around. Outside of these tournaments, even bilateral series between the top countries fails to evoke passion among the audiences. But clearly, that is not the case with the 20-over iteration. In India, nearly every state association has its own league, while the overwhelming success of the IPL has led to a spawning of franchise-based tournaments all over the world, further contributing to the growing hold of T20 cricket.

Active Indian players aren't allowed to play in any of the franchise leagues outside of the IPL. The initial thinking behind that move was not just to help advance the brand of the IPL but also to ensure that the IPL as a product wasn't diluted. India's top cricketers will be lapped up by the Big Bash League and the SA20 and the Caribbean Premier League; by restricting their appearance to the IPL alone, the aura around them has only grown. But the IPL alone is a stage unmatched. For all his exploits at the Under-19 level, Vaibhav Suryavanshi would hardly have been a household name had he not played for Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2025, as a 13-year-old. Just a match or two would have stoked interest, but the teenager who went for Rs 1.1 crore at the auction last year made sure he left a lasting impression with a spectacular century and numerous other eye-catching performances.

Suryavanshi and his India Under-19 captain Ayush Mhatre, who too made an impression in his maiden season with Chennai Super Kings, will view a place in the Indian team as a natural progression. It might not happen immediately, but all other things being equal, they should get there sooner rather than later. Both have already played Ranji Trophy cricket for their respective states (Suryavanshi for Bihar, the 18-year-old Mhatre for Mumbai) and the Under-19 skipper filled his boots in the 'Test' series in England in July. Perhaps, it's in T20s that they will break through, especially given that the Indian Test batting seems to be in good, safe, largely young hands, but they will be averse to being pigeon-holed as 20-over specialists, a luxury that might have passed the likes of Rinku and Dube by.

The vibrancy of India's T20 cricket is dictated by the resources available. Once conservative and circumspect even in a format that discourages those traits, India have been an unstoppable force from the time they have shed their inhibitions and embraced flair, positivity and fearlessness. Few exemplify that better than Abhishek, 24, who is on the cusp of greater things with two hundreds already in his 17-match T20I career. He is currently the T20 specialist to beat all specialists, and one of the main reasons why Suryakumar's India are so entertaining and enthralling.

THE GIST

- The Asia Cup squad comprises 15 of India's best 20-over players, but a case can easily made out for at least another dozen players who wouldn't have been out of place had they been picked instead.
- The Indian Premier League has emerged as a wonderful production line that has opened up avenues for players who might otherwise have wallowed in the anonymity of domestic cricket, never mind how spectacular their exploits were.
- India have been an unstoppable force from the time they have shed their inhibitions and embraced flair, positivity and fearlessness. Few exemplify that better than Abhishek.

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J BG-BGE

IAS, KAS officers redistributed to GBA and five corporations

The BBMP had 16 IAS, 2 IPS, 19 KAS officers and one Dy. SP, who have now been redistributed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Urban Development Department (UDD) has issued orders redistributing Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officers in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) between the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five corporations in the city, expected to come into effect from September 2.

The BBMP had 16 IAS, 2 IPS and 19 KAS officers and one DySP, who have now been redistributed.

The orders indicate the new administrative set-ups at the GBA and each of the five corporations. Technical posts like chief engineer, town planners are not part of the orders issued on Saturday.

GBA will be headed by a Chief Commissioner, an IAS officer of the rank of Principal Secretary and above. GBA will have four special commissioners - one in charge of Administration, Revenue and IT, three others for Health and Education; Climate Action Cell; Elections, Disaster Management; Public Relations, and Coordination, and Finance.

The orders indicate the new administrative set-ups at the GBA and each of the five corporations. FILE PHOTO

The order constituting GBA issued earlier shows that GBA will have a Chief Engineer and a Chief Town Planner. In addition, it will have two KAS officers in charge of Administration, Elections, and IT. The entire Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) is placed under the GBA.

Tasking a special commissioner of coordination between various parastatals brought on a single platform for the first time, apart from a special commissioner heading Climate Action Cell and Disaster Management, is being seen as a positive measure. However, posting a special commissioner for Health and Education, expected to be the domain of the corporations, has raised eyebrows. At each of the five corporations, there will be a Commissioner and an Additional Commissioner (Development), who will be IAS officers and an Additional Commissioner (Revenue) and a Zonal Joint Commissioner, who will be KAS officers.

In the earlier BBMP setup, KAS officers used to head cells on Land Acquisition, Transferable Development Rights, Estates, and Advertisements, among others. There is currently no clarity on where these posts will be placed, whether at the GBA or at each of the five corporations, and who will lead these cells.

Administrative set-up

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA)

Post	Service/rank
Chief Commissioner	Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Principal Secretary and above rank
Special Commissioner (Administration, Revenue, and IT)	IAS
Special Commissioner (Health, and Education)	IAS
Special Commissioner (Climate Action Cell, Elections, Disaster Management, Public Relations, and Coordination)	IAS
Special Commissioner (Finance) Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	IAS
Deputy Commissioner (Administration, Elections & IT)	Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS)
Assistant Commissioner (Administration, Elections & IT)	KAS
Additional Director-General of Police, Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF)	IPS
Superintendent of Police, BMTF	IPS
Deputy Superintendent of Police, BMTF	Karnataka State Police Service

Five corporations

Post	Service/rank
Commissioner	IAS
Additional Commissioner (Development)	IAS
Additional Commissioner (Revenue)	KAS
Zonal Joint Commissioner	KAS

'KIA has shown significant growth in its non-aero revenue in recent years'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has seen a 28% increase in its non-aeronautical revenue over a two year period between FY 2023 and FY 2025.

According to a recent report, "Beyond the Runway-Scope of Non-Aero Revenue and Aerocities in India", KIA has shown significant growth in its non-aeronautical revenue in recent years.

"In FY 2023, non-aero revenue stood at ₹8.01 billion, and this rose to ₹10.29 billion in FY 2025—an increase of 28% over two years," states the report by Knight Frank India, a real estate consultancy in association with National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO). The report attributes the growth to the opening up of the airport's Terminal 2 building.

"This growth was largely driven by the opening of Terminal 2, which created new commercial opportunities, particularly in retail and food and beverage, while lounges and duty-free outlets delivered performance that exceeded expectations," it stated.

The report attributes the growth to the opening up of the airport's Terminal 2 building. FILE PHOTO

The 2,55,661-sq. m Terminal 2, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 11, 2022, became operational on January 15, 2023.

The report stated that, beyond terminal-based revenue, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA, is actively advancing its aeropolis strategy, which includes the development of Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities.

"In addition, BIAL is leveraging its extensive land holdings for commercial development, aiming to build a multi-use ecosystem around the airport that supports long-term revenue diversification," it added. The report said that India's two largest airports, Mumbai and Delhi, generate per capita non-aero revenues of $20.1 and $18.1, respectively, which is the highest among Indian airports, followed by Cochin ($13.5), Hyderabad ($8.4) and KIA ($8.1).

"Mumbai and Delhi are approaching international benchmarks like London Heathrow ($21.6) and Tokyo Haneda ($19.9), signalling strong performance in duty-free, retail, food and beverage, and commercial services. These figures demonstrate that India's top-tier airports are successfully evolving into commercial hubs, comparable to leading global peers," it said.

Globally Singapore's Changi airport is the leader generating a per capita non-aero revenue of $26.

"Airports in Singapore and Dubai International Airport still set the gold standard in revenue optimization, driven by high passenger spending and world-class infrastructure. Airports like Cochin, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru are in a growth phase, benefiting from rising traffic and improved terminal offerings," it said.

41-year-old man dies of snakebite

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 41-year-old private firm employee died after being bitten by a snake that had slithered into his footwear in Bannerghatta on Saturday.

The deceased, identified as Manju Prakash, was a resident of Ranganatha Layout.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 12.30 p.m. when Prakash ventured out of the house to buy sugarcane juice for his mother. He returned home, handed over the juice to his sister-in-law and asked her to give it to his mother, before going to sleep. After an hour, when family members tried to wake him up, they saw that he was frothing at his mouth and found a bite mark on his toe. He was then rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, citing snakebite as the reason.

The family members reached home and found a dead snake – a small Russell's viper – inside his footwear. The police suspect that the snake, unable to come out, had suffocated to death.

The Bannerghatta Police have registered a case of unnatural death and are awaiting the postmortem report to rule out any foul play.

Regional Dak Adalat on Sept. 18

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Office of the Postmaster General of South Karnataka Region will hold a Regional Dak Adalat on September 18 to address public grievances related to postal services across 13 districts in the region.

The session is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the conference hall of the Postmaster General's office, at the GPO building.

To participate, complainants can send in the details of their grievances by September 15 addressed to the Assistant Director (M&T), South Karnataka Region. Complaints can be submitted or via email to pg.karsk@indiapost.gov.in.

Garment workers' convention discusses gender equality and workplace safety

Priyanka Vaadulasha
BENGALURU

More than 350 garment workers, mostly women, gathered at the Kondajji Basappa Auditorium in central Bengaluru on Sunday to deliberate on workplace safety, gender equality, and dignity at work. The programme was titled 'Safe Workplaces, Equal Voices'.

Cividep India, along with Munnade, Sadhana Trust, Samruddi Trust, and the Karnataka State Garment and Textile Workers Union (KSG & TWU), collaborated to bring forth the initiative.

"This attempt has always been to educate workers of their rights, to give them strength to ask questions and come together as collectives," said Deepika Rao, Executive Director, Cividep India.

Ms. Rao said that the problems faced by women workers are primarily related to health, adding that as a result of extreme working conditions, they are retiring as early as 45 with their bodies getting overly exhausted. In the absence of retirement allocations or funds, these women further take up domestic work at local shops or homes, she said.

Women garment workers attending an event titled 'Safe Workplaces, Equal Voices' in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

> Many are unaware of basic rights in the industry. There are provisions made but no one obtains it
>
> **NAGALAKSHMI CHOWDHARY,** Chairperson, State Women's Commission

"Workers are subjected to severe exploitation on a daily basis, ranging from the absence of basic facilities like drinking water and sanitation to the lack of access to rights like PF and OT. The initiative is made to draft an asking body that questions," said M.S. Asha Devi, feminist critic, writer, and professor at Maharani Cluster University, Bengaluru.

Nagalakshmi Chowdhary, chairperson of the Karnataka State Women's Commission, said, "Many are unaware of basic rights in the industry. There are provisions made but no one obtains it, like the Prayojakatva Yojana – an allowance of ₹4000 every month being provided by the government to single mothers. Without understanding and questioning the necessary allocations and rights, it becomes tough to move forward," she added.

"With a visit to a garment industry located in Peenya, the conditions I witnessed were as poor as a lack of basic seating for the employees. Thus, an immediate action plan was sent out to provide resources like orthopaedic shoes to help women standing for longer hours. Though the response was minimal, it was a start," stated Ms. Chowdhary.

Today, issues like factory deaths, accidents, and serious sexual harassment cases are not unknown, though unofficially, the parties are now being held responsible, Ms. Rao added.

"Our daily targets are to make around 1,000 jeans across the belt; the absence of even one worker affects the whole production, and every single employee has to face the consequences. While there is still verbal abuse, the working environment has now become a lot better," said Bhagya, a garment worker in Bengaluru.

The gathering underscored the need for stronger State and industry intervention, even as workers and grassroot leaders continue to press for safer, more dignified workplaces.

Man scales mobile tower, refuses to come down till police find his wife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After two hours of struggle and mediation, the police, along with Fire and Emergency Services personnel, managed to bring him down

In an incident reminiscent of Veeru's stunt in the Hindi film '*Sholay*', a 37-year-old daily wage labourer scaled a mobile tower and refused to come down until the police began tracing his missing wife.

The incident occurred in Attibele police station limits on Sunday.

After two hours of struggle and mediation, the police, along with Fire and Emergency Services personnel, managed to bring him down.

The man, identified as Chiranjeevi from Gangavathi, had come to Attibele to work as a daily wage labourer with his family. He was married to Roja and the couple had two children aged 12 and 8, the police said.

Roja worked at a garment factory, and both their children were in the hostel to study. Chiranjeevi allegedly became a chronic alcoholic and used to beat up Roja suspecting her character.

On Saturday, Chiranjeevi saw Roja travelling in a car belonging to the landlord and created a ruckus, accusing her of having an affair.

Roja tried to convince him that she was offered a drop by her landlord while coming from work, but Chiranjeevi, in a drunken state, beat her up, said the police. Unable to bear this, Roja reportedly sent a video recording to his family members and left home after switching off her mobile.

A few hours later, Chiranjeevi tried to reach her, but her phone was off.

Suspecting something amiss, he rushed to the Attibele police station on Saturday evening and filed a missing person complaint. While police were busy with security duty part of Ganesha festival procession, Chiranjeevi, to grab their attention, climbed up a 150 ft. mobile tower and called the control room, giving an ultimatum that he would jump if the police did not find his wife.

The police tried to convince him to come down, but Chiranjeevi demanded that the landlord, Harish, should come and clarify. The police called Harish, who reached the spot and clarified that he saw Roja walking back home from work and offered to drop her.

It took three hours for the police to convince him to come down. It was windy and raining heavily, and he was inebriated and struggling to balance at the top, a police officer said.

Chiranjeevi was detained at the station to ensure he was safe, the officer said.

Woman abused for feeding stray dogs; five booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agrahara police have registered an FIR against five persons in Choodasandra for allegedly verbally abusing and threatening their neighbour for feeding stray dogs recently. The accused also reportedly beat up the dogs before chasing them away.

Based on a complaint filed by the victim Neha Parveen, the police charged the accused, identified as Salim, Sudha, Kavitha, Aminul Rahman, and Vinod under various sections of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and under sections of the BNS for further investigation.

The victim, in her complaint, said that she was working in a private company and living with her father in an apartment in Choodasandra near Electronics City. She stated that she had been feeding stray dogs for the last four years, which the accused used to object to, leading to frequent fights.

On Thursday, while she was feeding the dogs along with her father, the accused allegedly confronted her and chased the dogs away, before hurling abuses and threatening her with dire consequences.

Knife-wielding man sexually harasses, robs woman in PG

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The entire incident was reportedly captured on CCTV, and the police are trying to identify the accused and track him down

A woman was allegedly sexually harassed and robbed by a knife-wielding masked man at her paying guest (PG) facility in Bengaluru's Sadduguntepalya recently. The victim was sleeping in her room and her roommate had gone out when the alleged incident took place.

When the victim heard the sound of her room's door opening, she thought that her roommate had returned.

However, a masked man had reportedly entered her room with a knife, who allegedly touched her inappropriately and threatened to stab her if she screamed for help.

The victim reportedly tried resisting the accused's actions and raised an alarm. Sensing trouble, the accused allegedly robbed ₹2,500 in cash from the victim before fleeing the spot.

Doors locked

The accused had allegedly locked the doors of adjacent rooms of the PG accommodation before entering the victim's room.

The entire incident was reportedly captured on CCTV, and the police are trying to identify the accused and track him down.

Launch of Nandini Ghee in U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Milk Federation launched its signature products, Nandini Ghee and Sweets, in the U.S. at the 8th NAVIKA World Kannada Summit 2025 in Lakeland, Florida, on Friday. The event, organised by Naavu Vishwa Kannadigaru (NAVIKA), witnessed participation from the Kannadiga community and international delegates.

Data show seas rising faster around Maldives, Lakshadweep than believed

Coral microatolls are disk-shaped colonies whose upward growth has become limited by the height of the lowest tide. As a result, the microatoll's upper surface closely reflects the lowest water levels in the area over time. These corals can survive for decades or even centuries, growing slowly in response to changing sea levels

Neelanjana Rai

Rising seas are a major consequence of global warming, with many implications for low-lying coastal areas. Coral reefs, which are highly sensitive to their environment, are also particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in sea level. When the sea level rises, sunlight may no longer penetrate the water to reach a coral reef that it could reach before. This can lead to coral bleaching.

Changes in tide patterns and increasing coastal erosion can further stress reef ecosystems already bearing the brunt of warmer waters and ocean acidification.

Significant gaps

Monitoring sea-level rise across ocean basins has been an ongoing scientific priority. In the Indian Ocean, long-term efforts began during the Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere programme in the Western Indian Ocean (1985-1994). These efforts were later incorporated into the Global Sea Level Observing System, which continues to support research in the region.

According to India's Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Ocean's levels have been rising at around 3.3 mm/year on average, which is higher than the global average. The Ocean is also experiencing above-average warming, which can amplify changes in ocean dynamics and atmospheric circulation that in turn affect coral bleaching episodes.

This said, there are still significant gaps in sea-level records, especially in the central tropical Indian Ocean. A new study has now extended sea-level records in this region by 90 years, indicating water levels here may have started accelerating as early as the late 1950s, significantly earlier than data collected by conventional tide gauge records indicate.

Painstaking survey

In the study, a team led by Paul Kench, professor at the National University of Singapore, along with researchers from Nanyang Technological University, turned to coral microatolls, a natural structure that they found could provide high-resolution, long-term sea-level records.

Coral microatolls are disk-shaped colonies that grow sideways once their upward growth has become constrained by the height of the lowest tide. Because of this limitation, the upper surface of a microatoll closely reflects the lowest water levels in the area over time. These corals can survive for decades or even centuries, growing slowly in response to changing sea levels.

A *Porites lutea* microatoll off the island of Réunion, 2009. PHILIPPE BOURJON (CC BY-SA)

The study was conducted on Mahutigalaa, a reef platform located in the Huvadhoo Atoll in the Maldives. The team studied a Porites microatoll, measuring and sampling its structure to extract a sea-level history from 1930 to 2019.

The researchers painstakingly surveyed the coral's outer edge and surface elevation. Then they cut a slab from the outer edge to the centre of the microatoll and X-rayed the slab to reveal annual growth bands – much like tree rings. These bands provided a precise timeline of the coral's growth, including when it reached sea level and when it died.The team also used uranium-thorium dating to determine its historical elevation relative to the sea level.

Assumption challenged

The data the team reconstructed in this way showed that sea levels had risen by around 0.3 metres over the 90-year period. The rate of rise increased markedly over time: 1-1.84 mm/year in 1930-1959, 2.76-4.12 mm/year in 1960-1992, and 3.91-4.87 mm/year in 1990-2019.

Also, according to the team, sea-level rise in the region began in the late 1950s, decades earlier than previously believed.

This means the Maldives, Lakshadweep, and the Chagos archipelago have been experiencing significant rise for at least 60 years, with a total increase of 30-40 cm over the last half-century.

This data challenges the common assumption in climate change and adaptation work that significant sea-level rise only began around 1990.

The new findings aim to refine projections of sea-level rise. For island nations the timing and magnitude of historic sea-level changes are essential for authorities to develop effective adaptation strategies

Since 1959, sea level in these areas has risen by about 3.2 mm/year, and over the last 20 to 30 years at around 4 mm/year.

Historical context

The coral microatoll also preserved environmental signals related to regional climate variability. Periods of slowed or interrupted growth were found to correspond with major El Niño and negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) events – climatic phenomena known to stress corals and lead to bleaching.

The data also revealed the influence of the 18.6-year lunar nodal cycle, where long-term oscillations in the moon's orbit affect the sizes of tides and sea levels.

The researchers noted that a critical factor in the success of its reconstruction exercise was that the study site was tectonically stable.

This stability ensures changes in the microatolls' elevation can be safely attributed to fluctuations in sea level rather than to vertical land movement.

According to Mr. Kench, while coral microatolls are not a substitute for tide gauges or satellite observations, they offer a valuable complementary approach. In remote or data-sparse regions, microatolls can provide historical context and improve understanding of regional variability in sea-level behaviour.

Growing role

The study also highlighted notable differences in sea-level rise patterns across the Indian Ocean basin. While coastal locations have shown more recent acceleration, the central Ocean appeared to have experienced an earlier, more pronounced rise. This variation is thought to be driven by regional oceanic and atmospheric changes, including intensified Southern Hemisphere westerlies, increased ocean heat uptake, and potential shifts in the Intertropical Convergence Zone.

As research continues, coral microatolls are expected to play a growing role in helping scientists rebuild sea-level histories across tropical waters. Their potential to fill critical gaps in observational records is particularly relevant for the central Indian Ocean, "which remains one of the least-monitored basins despite its strategic and ecological importance," Mr. Kench said.

The new findings add to efforts aimed at refining projections of sea-level rise and improving preparedness in regions most at risk. For island nations, where communities and infrastructure are concentrated just above sea level, understanding the timing and magnitude of historic sea-level changes is essential for authorities to develop effective adaptation strategies.

(Neelanjana Rai is a freelance journalist who writes about indigenous communities, the environment, science, and health. neelanjana189@gmail.com)

THE GIST

In the Indian Ocean, long-term sea-level monitoring began in 1985-1994. According to India's Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Ocean has been rising at a rate of 3.3 mm/year, which is higher than the global average. The ocean is also experiencing above-average warming

Researchers cut a slab from a microatoll and X-rayed it to reveal annual growth bands. The data showed that sea levels had risen by around 0.3 metres over 90 years. According to the team, sea-level rise here began in the 1950s, decades earlier than previously believed

The microatoll preserves signals on climate variability. Periods of slowed or interrupted growth corresponded with El Niño and negative Indian Ocean Dipole events. Data also revealed the influence of the lunar nodal cycle. Researchers noted that a critical factor was the tectonic stability of the site

BIG SHOT

Flood victims displaced by monsoon rains and the rising Sutlej river evacuate on August 29 with their belongings towards higher ground from Chanda Singh Wala village near the Pakistan-India border in the Kasur district of the Pakistani Punjab. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Shell structure: stars as onions

Vasudevan Mukunth

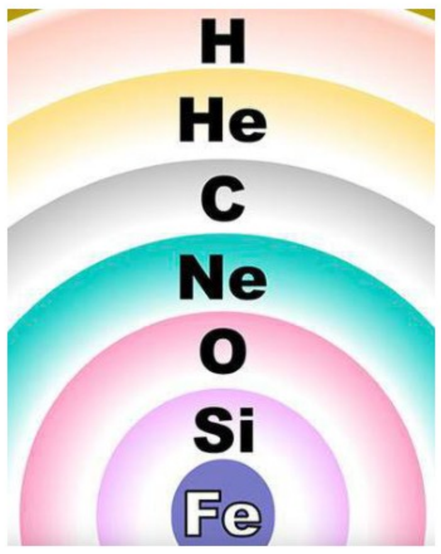
For more than half a century, astrophysicists have described the lives of massive stars in terms of shells. As these stars age, they fuse progressively heavier elements in nested layers: hydrogen on the outside, then helium, carbon and oxygen, neon and magnesium, and silicon and sulphur, until they're left with an inert iron core. This model is a cornerstone of stellar evolution theory but has largely remained a theoretical construct.

Observational evidence of the outer shells has emerged in certain kinds of stripped-envelope supernovae and Wolf-Rayet stars but the deeper layers have stayed out of sight.

A new study in *Nature* has reported a breakthrough. Using data from the Zwicky Transient Facility and follow-up studies with ground-based telescopes, an international team observed a supernova, SN 2021yfj, whose light carried the fingerprints of silicon and sulphur.

These elements are formed only in the inner shells, just outside the iron core. Their presence in the circumstellar material indicated that the progenitor star had been stripped down almost to its innermost layers before exploding.

This observation has twofold importance. First, it offers rare direct confirmation that the concentric shell structure of massive stars extends all the way inward, not just to the outer hydrogen or helium. Second, it



A simplified (not to scale) cross-section of a massive, evolved star with a mass greater than eight-times that of the sun. RURSUS (CC BY-SA)

represents the discovery of an entirely new class of supernova, now called Type Ien, defined by their silicon- and sulphur-rich signatures. Such events appear vanishingly rare: in six years of continuous sky monitoring, only one has been found.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of notified area councils formed by Odisha government

16 Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi also announced the upgradation of seven existing Notified Area Councils (NACs) into municipalities. The Chief Minister asked officers of Urban Local Bodies to make their cities and towns pothole-free and cover all drains by April 2026. PTI

The State funds which are 'stuck' with the Centre: Punjab CM

60 in thousand crore rupees. The Punjab Chief Minister urged Prime Minister Modi to release ₹60,000 crore of the "State's funds", which he claimed are "stuck" with the Centre. The CM also sought revision in the norms for funds available in the State Disaster Response Fund. PTI

Victims of harassment in Rohingya camps who have no legal aid

93 in per cent. Sexual harassment remains the most pressing concern for Rohingya women and adolescents living in squalid refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, according to a study released on Sunday. Cox's Bazar is home to around a million largely Muslim Rohingya minority. AFP

Pending GST refunds to be disbursed to traders in Delhi

1,600 in ₹ crore. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta claimed that the previous government failed to take any concrete measures towards the settlement of this amount. She directed that the amount be disbursed to the traders before Diwali. PTI

Investments in Andhra Pradesh's tourism sector in the past year

12 in thousand crore rupees. Minister for Tourism Kandula Durgesh said the State attracted nearly ₹12,000 crore in tourism sector investments over the past year, contributing to the construction of numerous buildings. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The importance of India's federal design

What is the status of the demand to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir? What are the processes enshrined in the Constitution of India for creating States? How are States reorganised? Have Legislative Assembly elections been held in J&K?

EXPLAINER

C. B. P. Srivastava

The story so far:

The Supreme Court has recently sought a detailed response from the Centre on the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Considering the significance of the principle of the separation of powers, the top court rightly said that it did not possess all the expertise and that there are some decisions to be made by the government. The court is hearing the plea in *Zahoor Ahmed Bhat versus UT of Jammu and Kashmir*. It has been argued that the failure to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is affecting the rights of the citizens there. Another argument in this context is that it is also violating the essential features of federalism and thereby the basic structure of the Constitution.

How are States created?

There are three processes enshrined in the Constitution of India for creating States – admission, establishment and formation. For admission of a new State into the territory of India, the entity should have its own organised political unit. It is also required that admission through acquisition shall be guided by international law. This was the process by which Jammu and Kashmir was admitted into India's territory through the Instrument of Accession in 1947. By executing this Instrument under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the then ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede his State to India.

For establishing a new State, territory shall be acquired as per the definition of acquisition in international law. India acquired Goa and Sikkim and established them as States.

The process of forming a new State has been, in fact, the reorganisation of an existing State which led India to take its number of 14 States in 1956 to 29 States before the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Article 3 of the Constitution provides for this process of reorganisation wherein Parliament may by law – form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State; increase the area of any State; diminish the area of any State; alter the boundaries of any State; or alter the name of any State. However, while the Union may diminish the area of a State, it cannot take it away by making it a Union Territory. This would be a step against the federal features of India. Therefore, it is mandatory for the Union to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir. It may wait for sometime depending upon the situation at the ground level.

For the federation: Congress workers participate in a protest march demanding the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, in Jammu, on July 20. PTI

What about India's federal design?

India has been made a Union of States which means that it is indivisible and that States have no right to secede. This provision in Article 1 may be interpreted in the sense that the word 'India' reflects a unitary federation while the word '*Bharat*' is a cultural connotation which signifies that India has a composite culture and that there is unity in diversity.

Despite being a two-tier system of governance, the word 'federation' is not used but rather 'Union' is written expressly. The idea behind this unique feature is to ensure India's federal character and unitary spirit. This design is in tandem with the philosophy of the Constitution. While the express use of the word 'Union' makes the Centre strong enough to protect the unity and integrity of the nation, the federal character is created to equitably distribute the resources establishing India as a welfare state. This is the reason that India's federal character has been included in the Basic Structure of the Constitution. Without a federal design, India's union would lose its existence. Hence, the Rajya Sabha has been made a permanent House in Article 83 (1) which writes that it shall not be subject to dissolution. The States' representation must always be there at the Union level to maintain and sustain India's unitary federation. Thus, it is imperative that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir be restored to protect the sanctity of federation.

What next?

To recall, on December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A, and also directed the Union Government to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and hold Legislative Assembly elections. Elections for the 90-member Assembly were held in October 2024, but there has not been any hint so far from the Government to restore the statehood as asked by the Court.

Critics may point out that restoration of statehood would definitely empower the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir and that the powers of the Lieutenant Governor would be curtailed affecting the present position of the Union over the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. If this is to be agreed, it would be inconsistent with the constitutional design of India and would definitely erode its federal features.

C. B. P. Srivastava is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi.

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court has recently sought a detailed response from the Centre on the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.
- There are three processes enshrined in the Constitution of India for creating States — admission, establishment and formation.
- Despite being a two-tier system of governance, the word 'federation' is not used but rather 'Union' is written expressly. The idea behind this unique feature is to ensure India's federal character and unitary spirit.

Why are orcas offering fresh prey to humans?

Are these killer whales waiting for a human response before recovering or abandoning the offered prey?

Rohini Karandikar

The story so far:

Many orcas, which are the largest species of dolphins and are often called killer whales, have been found sharing freshly killed prey with humans. And they don't just offer their prey: they wait for the humans to respond. In a new study in the *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, researchers have investigated why orcas are provisioning humans.

How did the team collect data?

While orcas are known to be prosocial animals, they rarely interact with humans. The research team collected data from the period 2004-2024 from five ocean parts: Eastern North Pacific, Eastern Tropical Pacific, Western South Pacific, Western South Atlantic, and Eastern North Atlantic. The team included only those instances in their analysis where human observers were a significant distance from the orcas before the animals approached. For example, the criterion for humans underwater at the time of provisioning was that they had to have been at least 15 m away from the killer whales before an interaction. The animals would then have come to within their own body length and release their prey in front of their bodies.

Are orcas smart?

Of the 34 instances the team was able to finalise, the orcas awaited a human response before they recovered or abandoned the offered prey and retreated in 33 instances. Their offerings included seaweed, invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Some people also reported not accepting the offering at first. Jared Towers, a marine biologist at the Bay Cetology research institute in British Columbia, Canada, was one of them. "I didn't accept the offerings because it was a shock when it happened," Mr. Towers said. "And there's only a few seconds to decide what to do. Easier just to observe." Like humans, orcas are at the top of their food chain. They also have a larger brain size relative to the size of the body. Research has linked this trait to better cognition, learning, and social behaviour. Orcas live and hunt in groups led by a matriarch, the oldest female, and the group's behaviour largely depends on the matriarch.

What are the orcas doing?

Some experts have said that the killer whales might just be playing. However, this activity is usually associated with juveniles whereas the new study found adults and juveniles alike to provision humans. Animals also play only when their own nutritional needs have already been met. The study, however, found that in half of all the instances, the killer whales were offering whole prey, not partly eaten. For these reasons, the authors said, the killer whales may have been exploring, not playing.

Animals explore their surroundings to reduce uncertainty about their physical, social, and/or environmental surroundings. Exploration is technically the conscious pursuit of knowledge and reflects the dolphins' evolved intelligence. In a few instances when humans tossed the prey back, the orcas immediately reciprocated, suggesting they were learning what humans preferred. "Some of these things are associated with play, but some of these things may also be defined as scientific thinking, which has been described as the ability to ask questions and then pursue answers," Mr. Towers said. While the animals' behaviour appeared to be prosocial and altruistic, the researchers warned that their actions could be manipulative or deceptive, for personal gain. Killer whales have been known to behave in this way to steal fish and to damage vessels.

Do the findings help conservation?

As humans and orcas interact more often, orcas are likely to adapt their behaviour to become more friendly or more hostile, depending on the female leading the group. These interactions could pique human curiosity about killer whales and potentially improve conservation efforts.

Rohini Karandikar is a science educator, and works with the TNQ Foundation.

THE GIST

- While orcas are known to be prosocial animals, they rarely interact with humans.
- Of the 34 instances the team was able to finalise, the orcas awaited a human response before they recovered or abandoned the offered prey and retreated in 33 instances.
- Some experts have said that the killer whales might just be playing. However, this activity is usually associated with juveniles whereas the new study found adults and juveniles alike to provision humans.

Enrolment in govt. polytechnics sees decline

Out of the 26,730 diploma course seats available for 2025-26, only 17,381 have been filled as of July 31, which includes 12,362 boys and 5,019 girls

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The demand for the three-year diploma courses in government-run polytechnics in Karnataka has been declining year after year, with more than 9,349 seats remaining vacant this year.

There are 109 government-run polytechnics across the State, with 26,730 diploma course seats available for the year 2025-26. As of July 31, 2025, with admissions for the courses having closed, only 17,381 seats have been filled, which included 12,362 boys and 5,019 girls.

In 2024-25, only 20,111 diploma seats out of the 26,360 seats available in the 107 government polytechnics were filled in the State. A large number of seats that remain vacant are for civil, mechanical, and automobile streams.

Lack of basic facilities

There have been allegations that government polytechnics are failing to attract students owing to lack of infrastructure, including buildings, laboratories, and full-fledged faculty.

Of the 109 government polytechnics, the State government has not sanctioned any teaching posts to 27 institutes that were started in recent years, sources said. "Without sanctioning any teaching post, these colleges are being run only with the help of guest faculty," the sources said.

Currently, a principal of a polytechnic has been deputed as a 'special officer' to these institutes, and academic activities have been

Government polytechnics

Year	Number of institutes	Total	Boys	Girls	Total admissions
2025-26	109	26,730	12,362	5,019	17,381
2024-25	107	26,360	14,653	5,458	20,111
2023-24	105	24,272	16,318	6,422	22,739
2023-22	101	23,918	16,511	6,352	22,863
2022-21	101	22,428	14,169	4,646	18,815

continued. "The government has allocated ₹10 crore for the development of laboratories in 27 new polytechnics and nine engineering colleges in the 2025-26 State Budget. However, as per the AICTE rules, this is not enough to develop laboratories in all these colleges," said an official of the Technical Education Department.

Officials said students who have studied diploma courses are allowed to enroll only in the engineering stream for their degree courses. "However, since there are opportunities for admission to various professional courses after the II PU, most parents prefer to enroll their children in PU courses. This is another reason for the decline in enrolment in government polytechnics," the source said.

100% job guarantee

"Students who have done diploma courses have a 100% job guarantee compared to students who have studied all other courses. There is not much awareness among students and parents about diploma courses. Steps have been taken to create awareness about this," said H. Prasanna, Director, Technical Education.

"Students who have studied Science in PUC have to compete with about 3 lakh students to get admission in engineering and other professional courses through CET. However, students who have done a diploma can directly enroll in 2nd year engineering (3rd semester) through lateral entry. Also, the competition in the DCET is less. This year, there are 25,000 engineering seats available for lateral entry, and only 14,000 students have applied. Therefore, lateral entry students will get seats in good engineering colleges. Also, even if they do a diploma course in any particular branch, they can get an engineering seat in the branch of their choice," he explained.

'Huge demand'

There is a huge demand in the job market, including industry, for those who have done diploma courses than engineering graduates, Mr. Prasanna said.

"Even a student who has just passed the diploma course will get a well-paid job. Appointment letters have been given to final year students of the Textiles Technology Diploma course. There are examples of many students who have passed the diploma in first class, getting salaries ranging from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh per month. Awareness is being created among parents and students about this," he added.

Teaching a minimum of 4 courses mandatory in polytechnics

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With an aim to attract students for diploma courses, the State government has decided to make it mandatory to start at least four courses in all polytechnics. In addition, steps have been taken to start other emerging courses, including Artificial Intelligence , Robotics, and Machine Learning, in government polytechnics with good infrastructure.

There are 109 government polytechnics in the State, including the two new ones that started this year. Among these, 16 courses are being taught in Bengaluru's Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic (SJP) alone. In the rest, eight courses are being taught in three institutes, seven in four institutes, six in 13 institutes, five in 20 institutes, four in 45 institutes, three in six institutes, two in 12 institutes, and one in five institutes. Of the 131 private and 42 aided polytechnics, most are teaching less than four courses.

As most polytechnics focus on teaching basic engineering courses such as civil, mechanical, and automobile, they are failing to attract students. This year, 73,724 diploma seats were available in the State's 282 polytechnics, of which only 38,655, including 29,659 boys and 9,036 girls, have been filled. The remaining 35,069 seats remain vacant.

Of the 34,891 seats available, mainly in private polytechnics, only 12,629 seats have been filled, leaving 22,262 seats vacant.

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar told *The Hindu*, "Many government colleges in the State are teaching only one or two courses. The main reason for the decline in student enrolment in polytechnics is the lack of a greater number of courses. Therefore, from the next academic year, all polytechnics must have at least four courses."

"It has also been decided to start emerging courses in government polytechnics with good infrastructure, and colleges are being reviewed. We have to apply to the All India Council for Technical Education by November. We will also revisit the branches for which admission has declined. These courses will be rejuvenated after taking a scientific approach," he explained.

From Page One

Dasara is a secular festival, says CM

To a demand on honouring Deepa Bhasthi, translator of Ms. Mushtaq's award-winning work 'Heart Lamp", the Chief Minister said the State Government had already honoured both Ms. Mushtaq and Ms. Bhasthi by awarding ₹10 lakh each.When asked if the date for Dasara airshow had been fixed, the Chief Minister said the event would be held on Vijayadashami itself.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (September 1, Monday), the following articles are available:

- The importance of India's federal design **newsth.live/indiafederalexp**
- Data show seas rising faster around Maldives, Lakshadweep than believed **newsth.live/Risingsea**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.CEE/Tr(O)ZB/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/5027 Date: 29.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bid against the enquiry no: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-15, for the work Augmentation of existing 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x31.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV Jigani Old Sub-Station in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District on **Partial Turnkey basis**(Excluding 31.5MVA Power Transformers, NIFPS & 11kV Switchgear) including supply of all matching materials/equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".
The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.09.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 01
RISE 06:09 SET 18:30
RISE 13:25 SET 00:00

TUESDAY, SEP. 02
RISE 06:09 SET 18:30
RISE 14:18 SET 00:50

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 03
RISE 06:09 SET 18:29
RISE 15:11 SET 01:46

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	25
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **SMT. PUSHPA. J, W/o Deepak Gowdru,** R/at: #23, 14th Cross, 16th Main, Near Ram Narayan Nursery, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560 076 has agreed to purchase the land bearing Sy.No.69 measuring 02 acre 15 guntas, situated at, **Sabmangala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** which has more fully described hereunder and hereinafter referred to as SCHEDULE PROPERTY from its owners namely **1)** Smt. D. Jayamma W/o. Kenchachari @ K.C. Achar, R/o: No. 988, N LIG 20th Block, Near Nandini Milk Parlor, 5th Phase, Yalahanka New Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore 560 064, **2)** Smt. Rukminiyamma W/o Late Ashwathachari, r/o: Samanduru Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, **3)** Smt. Rathnamma W/o Late Sarkalachari, R/o: #2316, Mallepura Village, Reddhalli Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore - 29 and **4)** Ramalingachari S/o Late Ramalingachari, R/o: Sabmangala Village, Samandur Post, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 562 106 and accordingly they have entered into registered agreement of sale.
Any person / persons / entitles /firms/ corporate's / institutions/financial institutions/ Banks/ NBFC's claiming to have any right/title/ interest in the schedule property in any manner or any objections for such alienation of the schedule property, may lodge their objections in writing **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice to the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the purchase of the schedule property and any claims thereafter will not be entertained and will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land bearing **Sy.No.69** measuring **02 acre 15 guntas,** situated at, **Sabmangala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** bounded on; **East by : Lakshmi Narayana and K.Ramappa Land, West by : Road and Land of Ramachari, North by : K.Ramappa Land, South by : Remaining extent in Sy.No.69 belongs Mr.Deepak Gowdru & Smt. Pushpa,**

MALLIKARJUNA.B.K, Advocate,
Office at, No. 1, 1st floor, Mahadeshwara complex, Attibele road, Anekal Town, Bangalore District- 562106. M : 9482018477
Email : mbkadd@gmail.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು
Office of the Senior Geologist, Dept of Mines & Geology, Raichur -584101
#Jilladalitha Bhavana, 1st floor, B-14, Yaklaspur Road,Raichur -584101 E-mail: dmgsgraichur@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಹಿಭೂವಿ:ಗಭೂಇ:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ 25.08.2025

ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (e-procurement)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮರಳು ನೀತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮರಳು ನೀತಿ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಳು ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (e-procurement) ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ನದಿ ಪಾತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ– ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವಿಧಾನಗಳು ಪೂರೈಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 05 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ವಿಕೋಪಗಳನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಅವಧಿಸಹಿತ) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, e-procurement ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ / ಕಂಪನಿ / ಫರ್ಮ್ ಇವರುಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ, ರಸ್ತೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMG/2024-25/SE0139 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದಿದ್ದು ಒಟ್ಟು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ 58 ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 35 ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಅಂಗೀಕಾರ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದುವರೆದು, ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ 23 ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದಿರುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMG/2025-26/SE0139.

Sl no	Talluk	Village	Block No	Unique code	Extent (acre-Gunt)	Sy. no	Estimate the Quantity of	Reservation
1	Raichur	Karekal	2	RSB-02	12-20	5,6,7	84761	General
2	Raichur	N. Malkapur	1	RSB-07	12-20	138, 139	35963	General
3	Devadurga	Anchesugur	2	RSB-09	12-20	29,31	86808	General
4	Devadurga	Anchesugur	3	RSB-10	12-20	124,125	86936	General
5	Devadurga	Anjala	1	RSB-12	12-20	4/1, XX, 5/4, 5/3, XX	82663	General
6	Devadurga	Baguru	2	RSB-14	12-20	3/2	87808	General
7	Devadurga	Herundi	1	RSB-18	12-20	94/2, 95/2, 96/2	91721	General
8	Devadurga	Karkikalli	1	RSB-24	12-20	30/2, 29/2 & 28/2	87170	General
9	Devadurga	Paratapura	2	RSB-30	12-20	9/2, 14/2 & 15/1	87204	General
10	Devadurga	Lingadahalli	2	RSB-33	12-20	XX & XX	86636	General
11	Devadurga	Lingadahalli	3	RSB-34	12-20	XX & XX	87255	General
12	Devadurga	Lingadahalli	4	RSB-35	12-20	XX, XX & 164	87198	General
13	Devadurga	Konachappali	2	RSB-37	12-20	58	87265	General
14	Devadurga	Konachappali	3	RSB-38	12-20	57	86842	General
15	Devadurga	Myadaragola	2	RSB-41	12-20	57/4, 60	86014	General
16	Devadurga	Myadaragola	3	RSB-42	12-20	61,63,&64	87106	General
17	Devadurga	Myadaragola	4	RSB-43	12-20	64, 67	84968	Scheduled Caste
8	Devadurga	Myadaragola	7	RSB-46	12-20	10/2	86430	Scheduled Caste
19	Sindhanur	Chincheri	1	RSB-47	12-20	54,55,57/2 & 57/4	85243	General
20	Sindhanur	Chincheri	2	RSB-48	12-20	57/2, 57/4, 58 & 1	84355	General
21	Sindhanur	Olabellary	1	RSB-49	12-20	177 & 181	84520	General
22	Sindhanur	Ayanur	4	RSB-56	12-20	107, 108, 109 & 110	83850	General
23	Manvi	Yadiyala	1	RSB-58	12-20	48, 62 & 57	84789	General

ಮರು–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದಿರುವ 23 ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 1) ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ, ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನೀತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.03.2025 ರಿಂದ 17.04.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 05.30ರವರೆಗೆ. 2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.04.2025, ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05:30ಕ್ಕೆ 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.04.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.04.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ: ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ, ಪಾವನಿ ಹೋಟೇಲ್ ಹಿಂದುಗಡೆ, ಮಂತ್ರಾಲಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

ಈ ಮೆಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮರಳು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳು 05 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಮರಳು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಿಂದ e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ e-procurement ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ e-procurement http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಆಯಾ ಮರಳು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಲು ವಿಧಿಸಲಾದ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹತ ಷರತ್ತು/ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಖಾತರಿಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗುವ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಮುಂದಿನ ಹಂತದ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮರಳು ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರೂ 10,000/–ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಗವರ್ನೆನ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರೋಸಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. 3) ಪಾಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08532–200647,9449183943, 73535679633) 4) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಪುನಃ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, e-procurement ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು

ಸಹಿ/– ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ
DIP/RCR/369/KSMC&A/370/2025-26 ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bangalore: Public are hereby informed that, my client had lost the following original documents pertaining to Sy.No.18 and Sy.No.19/2 of Heggondahalli Village, and Sy.No.57/2 of Chikkavaderapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, (a) Sale deed dated 01.11.1976, Bearing Documents No. 1020/1976-77, registered in the office of Sub Register Anekal.(b)Release deed dated 26.5.2018, Bearing Document No.CMP-1-01311-2018-19, stored in Cd No.CMPD200, registered in the office of Sub registrar Chamarajapete.(c)Sale Deed dated 27.7.1978, Bearing Document No. 486/1978-79, Volume No. 1281, registered in the office of Anekal, Bengaluru.(d)Sale agreement dated 16.05.2016, bearing Document No.SRJ-1-00545, Stored in CD No.SRJD197, registered in the office of Sub-registrar, Sarjapura.(e) Release deeds dated 18.4.2016, Bearing Document No.BSK-1-06531-2016-17, stored in Cd No.BSKD374, registered in the office of Sub registrar, Banashankari and dated 27.10.2016, Bearing Document No. SRJ-1-03666-2016-17, stored in CD No.SRJD222, registered in the office of Sub registrar, Sarjapura
The above said original documents were either lost or mislaid and he is unable to trace the same in spite of his best efforts and also lodged a complaint with the local Police on 26.08.2025 regarding the loss of original documents. If anyone finds the above-mentioned documents, they are hereby requested to deliver the same to the undersigned and if any person were to deal with the said original title deeds in respect of above said property other than my client, should deposit the said documents with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of issuance of this notice with necessary documentary proof for asserting their rights, failing which our clients shall consider that there are no claims what so ever.
Date: 01/09/2025 | Advocate:Raghu.KN
No.96, 6th Main, Jaibheem Nagar, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru-68. Ph.No.95388 66419

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MADAVANERI Prathyusha, d/o –Jayasimha Reddy Madavaneri Subramanyam, r/o –Flat A–403 Sanaathana Chamanthi Apartment, Seegehalli, Opp To Sai Gardens, Bengaluru–560067. Have Changed My Name To Prathyusha Thenepalli. Affidavit Date On 25/08/2025.

I, RUMIT Anand Singh Devender Singh/ Rumit Singh Anand, s/o – Devender Singh Anand, r/o: Villa No 42, Veneto, JRC Palladio, Near Indus International School, Tyayakanahalli, Billapura Cross, Sarjapura–Attibele Road–562125. Have Changed My Name To Rumit Singh Devendra Anand. Affidavit Date On 29/08/2025.

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GENERAL

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PONDICHERRY INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES will destroy the medical records of patients OP and IP who have not visited the institution. OPD records till 31.07.2024 and IPD records till 31.07.2022
The process of destruction will begin from one month after the date of this publication. If any of the above information scheduled for destruction is pertaining to you and you would like the information provided to you, kindly give a written request at the Medical Records Department at Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences PIMS) with proof of identification.(Aadhar, Election ID card, Passport ,PAN card or Ration Card.) Digitized copy of destructed OPD and IPD records will be available.
For any query or further information patients can contact : **MRD at PIMS 0413-2651246 , 2651244 & 2651250.**
Medical Superintendent
P.I.M.S

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM NO.RSC – 4
[Pursuant to Rule 3(3)]
Before the National Company Law Tribunal Bench-I at Chennai
Company Application No.37 OF 2025
Padgham Collaborative Management Private Limited
A Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956
Represented by its Director
Mrs. Kirthivasan Jayalakshmi
Having its Registered Office at 4th Floor, Chateau D' Ampa Building, New No.37, Nelson Manickam Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600029
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
Notice may be taken that an CP/37/CHE/2025 was presented to the Tribunal at to the Tribunal at National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench-I, on the 25th day of April, 2025 for confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above company from Rs.79,89,390/- to Rs.7,98,939/-.
The notices to individual creditors have been issued. The list of creditors prepared on the 03rd day of February 2025 by the company is available at the registered office of the company situated at 4th Floor, Chateau D' Ampa Building, New No.37, Nelson Manickam Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600029 for inspection on all working days between 11 AM to 4 PM between 01.09.2025 and 15.09.2025 (days when the inspection would be available).
If any creditor of the company has any objection to the application or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting documents) and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorised Representative, if any, to the undersigned at the registered office of the company, within three months of date of this notice.
If no objection is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above petition to reduce the share capital of the company, be treated as correct.
It may also be noted that the matter came up for hearing on 06.08.2025 and the next hearing date is fixed on **17th day of September 2025** on which day, the Tribunal shall hear the application. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing, he should make a request along with his objections, if any.
Sd/-
Authorised Representative
for the Company
KIRTHIVASAN JAYALAKSHMI

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

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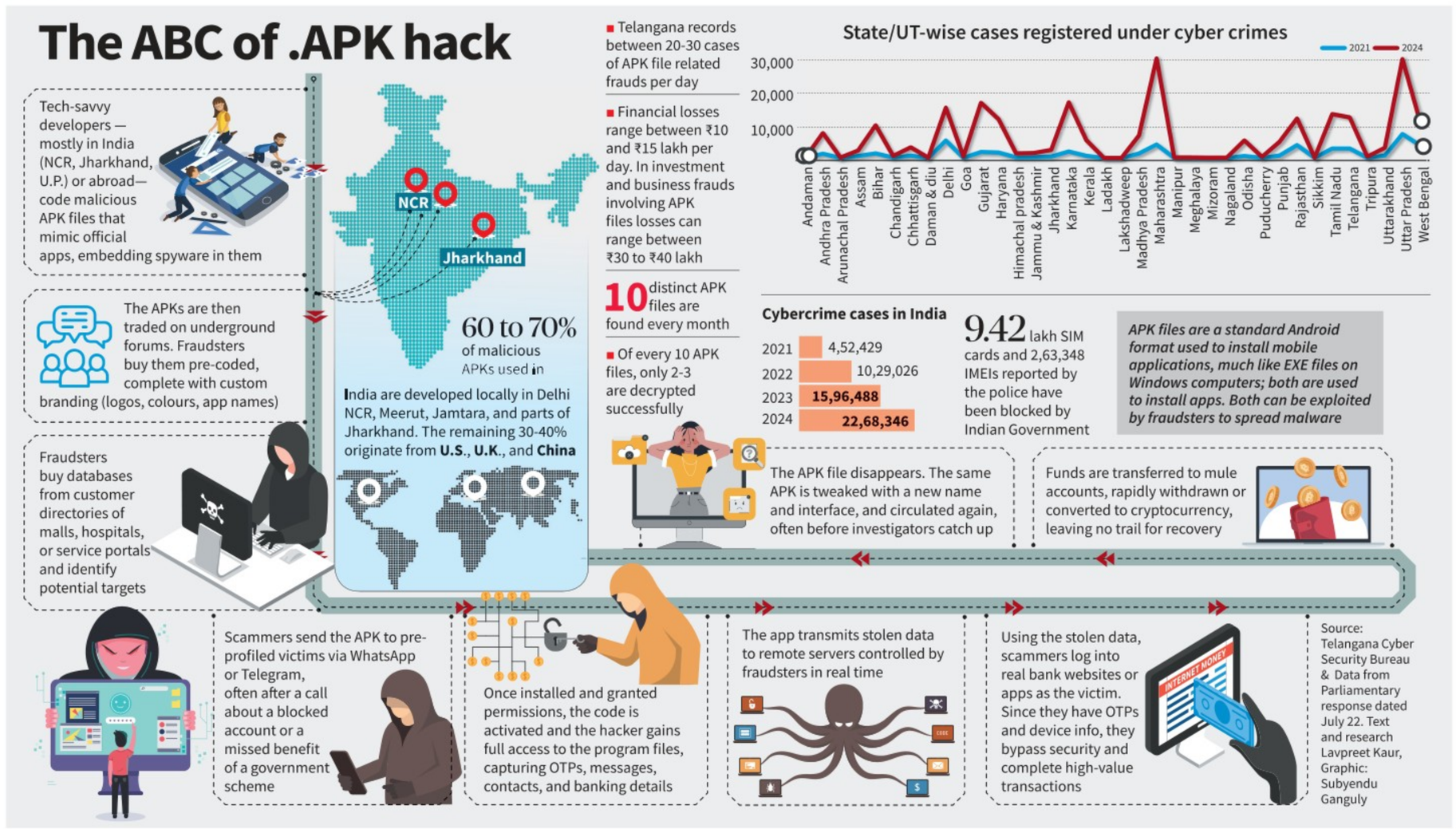

The ABC of .APK hack
Tech-savvy developers — mostly in India (NCR, Jharkhand, U.P.) or abroad— code malicious APK files that mimic official apps, embedding spyware in them
NCR
Jharkhand
60 to 70% of malicious APKs used in India are developed locally in Delhi NCR, Meerut, Jamtara, and parts of Jharkhand. The remaining 30-40% originate from U.S., U.K., and China
The APKs are then traded on underground forums. Fraudsters buy them pre-coded, complete with custom branding (logos, colours, app names)
Fraudsters buy databases from customer directories of malls, hospitals, or service portals and identify potential targets
Scammers send the APK to pre-profiled victims via WhatsApp or Telegram, often after a call about a blocked account or a missed benefit of a government scheme
Once installed and granted permissions, the code is activated and the hacker gains full access to the program files, capturing OTPs, messages, contacts, and banking details
The app transmits stolen data to remote servers controlled by fraudsters in real time
Using the stolen data, scammers log into real bank websites or apps as the victim. Since they have OTPs and device info, they bypass security and complete high-value transactions
The APK file disappears. The same APK is tweaked with a new name and interface, and circulated again, often before investigators catch up
Funds are transferred to mule accounts, rapidly withdrawn or converted to cryptocurrency, leaving no trail for recovery
Telangana records between 20-30 cases of APK file related frauds per day
Financial losses range between ₹10 and ₹15 lakh per day. In investment and business frauds involving APK files losses can range between ₹30 to ₹40 lakh
10 distinct APK files are found every month
Of every 10 APK files, only 2-3 are decrypted successfully
State/UT-wise cases registered under cyber crimes
2021
2024
30,000
20,000
10,000
Andaman
Andhra Pradesh
Arunachal Pradesh
Assam
Bihar
Chandigarh
Chhattisgarh
Daman & diu
Delhi
Goa
Gujarat
Haryana
Himachal pradesh
Jammu & Kashmir
Jharkhand
Karnataka
Kerala
Ladakh
Lakshadweep
Madhya Pradesh
Maharashtra
Manipur
Meghalaya
Mizoram
Nagaland
Odisha
Puducherry
Punjab
Rajasthan
Sikkim
Tamil Nadu
Telangana
Tripura
Uttarakhand
Uttar Pradesh
West Bengal
Cybercrime cases in India
2021 4,52,429
2022 10,29,026
2023 15,96,488
2024 22,68,346
9.42 lakh SIM cards and 2,63,348 IMEIs reported by the police have been blocked by Indian Government
APK files are a standard Android format used to install mobile applications, much like EXE files on Windows computers; both are used to install apps. Both can be exploited by fraudsters to spread malware
Source: Telangana Cyber Security Bureau & Data from Parliamentary response dated July 22. Text and research Lavpreet Kaur, Graphic: Subyendu Ganguly

Inside the APK scam: how fake apps are used for financial fraud

APK fraud is one of the fastest-growing cybercrime threats in the country today. These scams, driven by malicious Android Package Kit (APK) files, exploit public trust in digital systems while using sophisticated technical tools to stay undetected and operational across State lines

Lavpreet Kaur

The story so far:

Thousands of Indians with cell phones are losing money after answering a call or clicking on a message. Sometimes it begins with a phone call – calm, polite, and urgent. The voice at the other end warns of a blocked bank account, a missed government subsidy, or a pending electricity bill. Moments later, a message follows with a link to an app that promises a quick fix. The app looks official, bears the logo of a trusted institution, and installs without issue. The user grants a few routine permissions – contacts, SMS, notifications – not realising that, in that instant, their phone had become an open vault.

What happens after users install the app?

In less than 10 minutes, money begins disappearing from bank accounts. Fixed deposits are prematurely closed, and OTPs intercepted. The app, which now runs in the background, monitors, mirrors and mines everything, right from locations to private messages. The user is unaware until it is too late. And by the time help is sought, the funds have travelled through layers of digital laundering, impossible to retrieve.

APK fraud is one of the fastest-growing cybercrime threats in the country today. The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has logged 12,47,393 different types of cases in the last six months. Parliament has been informed that there has been a 900% jump in cyber crimes between 2021 and 2025. Data from the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) revealed that a total of 2,188 such cases were reported between January and July of 2025, leading to losses of ₹779.06 crore. Officials said that 20 to 30 such cases are reported every single day, with daily financial losses between ₹10 and ₹15 lakh. In high-stake scams like investment and business, losses can go up to ₹30 to ₹40 lakh. These scams, driven by malicious Android Package Kit (APK) files, exploit public trust in digital systems while using sophisticated technical tools to stay undetected and operational across State lines.

How does the fraud work?

APK files on Android devices are much like .exe files on Windows computers; both are used to install apps, and both can be exploited by fraudsters to spread malware.

Fraudsters build or source these apps to mimic the appearance and language of official portals, including government subsidy schemes like PM-Kisan, tax refund platforms, electricity boards, or banks asking for KYC updates. These fake apps are often circulated through social media platforms like WhatsApp, accompanied by convincing messages that urge users to act immediately.

Developers use encryption techniques that hide malicious code from detection tools. By remaining dormant during installation, these APKs sidestep scans through antivirus software. Once downloaded, the app seeks multiple permissions, including access to contacts, messages, call logs, location, microphone, and notifications.

The app gains access to the phone's program files, harvests data in real-time, and transmits it in encrypted bits to external servers operated by fraudsters. These bits, while unreadable to ordinary users, are decoded to extract valuable information, including banking credentials, OTPs, contacts, and location coordinates, among others.

Who operates these apps?

The fraudsters who circulate these APKs are rarely the ones who build them. Instead, these apps are part of a well-structured underground economy. Cybercrime officials estimate that 60 to 70% of malicious APKs used in India are developed locally by tech savvy masterminds in Delhi NCR, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, Jamtara, and parts of Jharkhand. The remaining 30-40% originate internationally, with traces leading to the U.S., U.K., and China. Telegram channels and dark web marketplaces serve as prime distribution channels, offering pre-built APK kits and modules for a fee.

Once in circulation, the same APK file is reused with minor modifications in the interface (name, logo and URL or web address of the file), allowing it to bypass detection even after earlier versions are blacklisted.

Cybercrime officers say that across hundreds of scam cases each month, only about 10 distinct APK files are found, pointing to the widespread reuse of a few malicious apps.

How are users targeted?

The choice of victim is anything but random. Much like a recce before a physical crime, cyber fraudsters carry out extensive digital surveillance before striking.

"Fraudsters purchase leaked databases, sourced from customer directories of malls, hospitals, or service portals, readily available on the dark web, Telegram, or even local search engines like Just Dial," said an official from the TGCSB. "These datasets include names, phone numbers, email IDs, addresses, and at times even income or professional details, which help criminals customise their approach," the official explained.

High-earning professionals, including doctors, bank staff, teachers, and real estate agents, are often in the crosshairs. Using partial information already known about the target, fraudsters craft convincing, urgent messages designed to manipulate trust and prompt action.

How are investigators tackling the problem?

When a fraudulent app is seized, cyber forensics teams decrypt it to trace server origins or identify developer signatures. But the results are mixed. Only 2-3 out of every 10 APKs are decrypted successfully. Most reveal only the server addresses, or general code structures. Rarely do the files contain identifiable developer signatures.

Even when financial trails are followed, they usually end in mule accounts, temporary bank or wallet accounts used to receive stolen funds, which are quickly converted into cryptocurrency. Arrests do happen, particularly of local accomplices managing these mule accounts or distributing the APKs. But the masterminds and coders, especially those offshore, remain elusive.

Google has removed nearly 50 malicious apps in recent months based on reports from investigators. "Google or any other intermediary does not scrutinise every application that is being hosted on their server. Fraudsters also use mule accounts and shell identities to pay for hosting and publishing on search engines," explained the official.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the Titanic to mark the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the sunken ship

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
The Titanic wreck was found about 370 miles (595 km) off the coast of which place in Canada in the early hours of September 1, 1985?

QUESTION 2
Name the two institutions involved in the discovery mission.

QUESTION 3
Name the 16-foot (5-metre) submersible equipped with a remote-controlled camera that made the discovery. The images of which part of the ship were sent across first?

QUESTION 4
What is the name given by scientists to the iron-eating microorganisms that are covering the wreckage?

QUESTION 5
Contrary to popular belief that a gash caused by the iceberg collision led to the disaster, scientists have attributed what 'prime' reason as having contributed to the sinking?

QUESTION 6
Name the company that was granted permission in 1987 to retrieve artifacts from the wreckage.

QUESTION 7
In 2024, a bronze statuette of which goddess, which had been in the first-class lounge, was located on the ocean floor?

Visual question:
Identify this noted American explorer credited with leading the team that discovered the remains of the ill-fated liner.

Questions and Answers to the August 29 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The group with which Michael Jackson began his music career. **Ans: The Jackson 5**
2. Name Jackson's autobiography. **Ans: *Moonwalk***
3. The Moonwalk was first featured in this music video. **Ans: Billie Jean**
4. This was Jackson's biggest hit. **Ans: Thriller**
5. Name the movie studio that Jackson is reported to have almost bought and the superhero he wished to play. **Ans: Marvel; Spiderman**
Visual: Name this sporting event. **Ans: Super bowl**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli| K.N. Viswanathan| Neil Lall| Sukdev Shet| Sadhan Panda

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

She's dead certain that he is arrogant

I wouldn't cross him if I were you. He has a very short fuse and yelled at the team for 10 minutes

S. Upendran

"It's been raining non-stop for a week."
"What else do you expect during the monsoon season?"
"It would be nice if we could have a bit of sunshine every now and then."
"Your wish may come true. We might see the sun sometime next week."
"Really? Are you certain?"
"I'm not dead certain. But according to the forecast..."
"Dead certain? What are you talking about? How can a dead person be certain about anything?"
"Dead, in this context, is not the opposite of 'alive'. When you are 'dead certain' about something, you're absolutely sure about it. The children are dead certain they saw a tiger in the playground."
"A case of the imagination running wild!"
"It's also possible to combine dead with other words."
"If you are dead tired, you're extremely tired. I was dead tired after the walk."
"I don't agree with my father about most things. But he's dead right when he says that most politicians are crooks."
"A lot of people would agree with him. Anyway, I'm glad you'd brought your cousin to the party on Saturday. She left pretty early, though."
"She apologised for that. Much as she enjoyed the party, she had to leave. Had to catch an early morning flight."
"I see. Tell me, is it okay to say, much as she enjoyed the party? Shouldn't you have said 'although' she enjoyed the party?"
"One of the meanings of 'much as' is 'although'."
"I didn't know that! How about this example? As much as I hate Shiva, I don't think he's the one who has been spreading rumours about the Director."
"Sounds good! 'As much as' is mostly used to mean 'even though'. As much as I would like to go surfing in Hawaii and Australia, I don't think I have the time or the money for that right now!"
"Much as I'd like to lend you the money, I don't think I can. My boss will get angry."
"Really? He doesn't look like a person who gets angry."
"Oh, don't be fooled by his smile. The man can get angry pretty quickly."
"Interesting. I never thought of Sanjay as a man with a short fuse."
"Man with a short fuse? What are you talking about?"
"If you say that someone has a short fuse, what you mean is that the individual loses his temper – and that too, very quickly."
"In other words, the person is someone who becomes angry fast."
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Repugnant:
offensive to the mind

Synonyms: abhorrent, detestable, obscene

Usage: *I don't practise such morally repugnant customs.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/repugnantpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɹɪˈpʌgnənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

INDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

Excerpts of Chairman's Message at the 38th Annual General Meeting held on 30th August, 2025

Manoj Kumar Dubey
Chairman and Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 07518387

Dear Shareholders,

It is with immense pride and optimism that I present to you the 38th Annual Report of Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC)- the cornerstone enabling India's transformation into a global economic powerhouse. This year's message is more than a routine review; where IRFC not only consolidated its position as the veritable financial backbone of the Indian Railways but also embarked decisively on a journey of strategic diversification and sustainable value creation.

A defining landmark of the year was the conferment of the illustrious "Navratna" status upon IRFC by the Government of India- joining the elite cadre of only 26 Central Public Sector Enterprises to receive this honour. This recognition is a testament to IRFC's consistent track record of financial stability, operational excellence, and strategic foresight, which has firmly positioned the Company as a trusted financing arm of Railway Eco-system.

IRFC is not just another NBFC- we are the exclusive financial partner to the one of the world's largest public transport network. As India sets its sights on Viksit Bharat 2047, IRFC stands as the nation's growth multiplier, ensuring that every rupee invested propels the vision of a connected, sustainable, and digital India. With the sovereign's full trust and the honor of Navratna CPSE status, our strategic autonomy and agility have never been stronger.

I invite you to journey further through this report, confident that our collective achievements this year are a harbinger of even greater successes to come.

MoU & Rating

The Company enters Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Railways (MoR) every year wherein Company is evaluated on various financial and non- financial parameters. Based on its performance, the Company has been rated 'Excellent' by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for the year 2023-24.

Operational Highlights

Let me present some of the key performance highlights of your company during the year 2024-25:

- Revenue from operations has increased by ₹ 503.51 crore to ₹ 27,152.14 crore in 2024-25 from ₹ 26,648.63 crore in 2023- 24 (^ 1.89% YoY).
- Profit After Tax has risen to ₹ 6,502.00 crore as compared to ₹ 6,412.11 crore (^ 1.40% YoY).
- Earnings Per Share (EPS) reached to ₹ 4.98 (face value of ₹ 10/-) as against ₹ 4.91 in the previous financial year.
- Net worth of the Company as on March 31, 2025 stands at ₹ 52,667.77 crore vs ₹ 49,178.57 crore (^ 7.09% YoY).

Dividend

During FY 2024–25, the Board of Directors declared the first and second interim dividends at the rate of 8% each (i.e., ₹ 0.80 per share) on 13,06,85,06,000 fully paid-up equity shares of ₹10/- each. The dividends were paid to shareholders on 27th November 2024 and 27th March 2025, respectively. The total dividend paid during the FY 2024-25 amounts to ₹3,005 Crore (Final Dividend FY 23-24, 1st Interim Dividend and 2nd Interim Dividend FY 24-25)

Business Diversification

Company has taken several strategic steps to diversify its lending portfolio. IRFC began funding initiatives beyond MoR during FY 2024–25, under its mandate of financing for activities with forward and backward linkages to the railways.

In alignment with the Government of India's vision of a future-ready, inclusive, and modern railway network, IRFC is actively broadening its financing footprint. Beyond its core role in railway asset financing, IRFC is expanding into sectors having forward and backward linkages to railways, such as power generation and transmission, mining, fuel, coal, warehousing, telecom, hospitality etc. The Company is taking several strategic steps to diversify its lending portfolio and started funding for projects other than MoR under its mandate of financing adopting "whole of Govt. of approach keeping Railways at its centre."

Road Ahead

The Board of Directors had approved borrowing limit of ₹ 60,000 crore for FY 2025-26 for meeting the funding requirement of Indian Railways, if any, new business activities, refinancing of existing loans and for other general corporate purposes. As we step into FY 2025-26, IRFC stands at a defining crossroads, bolstered by its recent elevation to Navratna CPSE status with a greater financial autonomy.

IRFC's transformative vision is now powered by a clear roadmap: ambitious business diversification beyond core railway financing, bold initiatives to foster India's sustainability agenda, and an unwavering commitment to corporate governance of the highest global standards. We are primed to leverage our scale, credit strength, and deep sectoral expertise to fuel the nation's aspirations of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

Acknowledgement

It is with great pride and humility that I acknowledge the unwavering support and trust bestowed upon IRFC by our valued shareholders, debenture-holders, investors, and lending institutions, our customers and partners, especially Indian Railways, for their steadfast collaboration and longstanding association during the financial year 2024–25.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Hon'ble Minister of Finance, along with all officials of their ministries, for their continued guidance and vision. Their insights and leadership have been instrumental in positioning IRFC as a key enabler of infrastructure transformation.

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the Company's Board of Directors for their strategic oversight, and our employees whose professionalism, dedication, and commitment have been critical in navigating challenges and delivering consistent performance.

We remain deeply committed to driving the nation's growth journey through strategic financial solutions and prudent governance.

Sd/-
(Manoj Kumar Dubey)
Chairman and Managing Director & CEO

30th August, 2025
New Delhi

Note: *This does not purport to form proceedings of this Annual General Meeting*

Scan the QR Code to read full speech

Key Financials FY 24-25

₹ 27,152 Crore	₹ 6,502 Crore	₹ 52,667 Crore	672.85%	₹ 4.98	₹ 3,005 Crore	₹ 40.30
Revenue From Operations	PAT	Net worth	CRAR	EPS	Dividend Paid	Book Value (Per Share)

INDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPORATION
(A NAVRATNA CPSE UNDER MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)
Future on Track

INDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (A NAVRATNA CPSE UNDER MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)
CIN: L65910DL1986G01026363 | Regd.Office: UG Floor, East Tower, NBCC Place, Bhisham Pitamah Marg, Pragati Vihar, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 | **Phone:** 011-24361480, **Email:** investors@irfc.co.in, **Website:** https://irfc.co.in

Ashok warns of Chamundeshwari *chalo* agitation

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

BJP leader R. Ashok speaking to presspersons after visiting Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok threatened to launch a Chamundeshwari *chalo* rally on the lines of the one in Dharmasthala and lashed out at the Congress for "hurting the sentiments of Hindus".

Speaking to presspersons after visiting Chamundeshwari temple on Sunday, Mr. Ashok accused the Congress government of "deliberately targeting" Hindu places of worship.

Objecting to the remarks of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar that Chamundi Hills and the Chamundeshwari temple do not belong exclusively to Hindus, Mr. Ashok asked to whom they belonged.

"If it does not belong to Hindus, then whose temple is it?", remarked Mr. Ashok who accused the Congress of indulging in "politics of appeasement". The Congress resorts to such practices during elections but it is perpetuating it even now, he added.

He warned that if Chamundi Hills and the temple were made part of a "toolkit", it would not be tolerated. "If the sanctity of the temple was violated or questioned, we will fight and launch the Chamundeshwari *chalo* rally," he said.

Continuing his objection to invite writer Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate Dasara this year, Mr. Ashok said she had insulted the State symbol and the deity associated with Kannada.

"If she rejects Bhuvaneshwari, how will she accept Chamundeshwari," questioned Mr. Ashok. He reiterated the BJP's demand that Ms. Mushtaq should apologise to Kannadigas before inaugurating Dasara.

Though there are 6 crore Hindus in the State, the government could not identify a single achiever among them or consider them fit to inaugurate Dasara, he remarked.

Seeking NIA probe, BJP leaders to converge on Dharmasthala today

'When the temple is unnecessarily being targeted, devotees cannot silently watch the show. Convention is to urge govt. to unearth the conspiracy behind campaign against Dharmasthala'

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

All ready: The venue for the BJP's convention to be held in Dharmasthala on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) making a beeline for Dharmasthala for over a week, the BJP will take out a State-wide rally and hold a huge convention in the temple town on Monday, to press for a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe to uncover the "larger conspiracy" behind the slander against Manjunatheshwara temple and its administrators.

Speaking to presspersons after visiting the Sanghaniketan in Mangaluru on Sunday, B.Y. Vijayendra, State president, said the BJP is seeking a probe by the NIA or the CBI.

Stating that no politics is involved in holding the convention, he said that sentiments of devotees have been hurt owing to a campaign against the temple and its managers, using the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged mass burials over a decade ago.

"When the temple and its administrators are unnecessarily being targeted, devotees can no longer silently watch the show. The convention is to urge the government to unearth the conspiracy behind the campaign against Dharmasthala," Mr. Vijayendra said.

Party State secretary H.C. Thammesh Gowda told presspersons in Dharmasthala on Sunday that 50,000 to 1 lakh people are expected to attend the Dharmasthala *chalo* rally, which will converge at the temple town at 2 p.m.

He said that 20,000 people will reach the temple town in 2,000 buses on Sunday evening. The remaining will arrive in over 10,000 cars on Monday.

Capt. Brijesh Chowta, Dakshina Kannada MP, while speaking in Dharmasthala, alleged that Left parties, the Social Democratic Party of India, and other forces are behind the larger conspiracy against Dharmasthala. "The SIT probe is losing its track. There are reports on the involvement of people from other States behind the campaign. Reports also suggest about foreign funding for the campaign. Hence, the NIA probe is required to uncover the conspiracy," Capt. Chowta said.

Seers of Jain mutts met in the temple town on August 29 in support of the temple and its administrators.

Earlier on August 16, S.R. Vishwanath, BJP MLA for Yelahanka, led a rally of 400 four-wheelers from Nelamangala to Dharmasthala.

Mr. Vijayendra who visited the Dharmasthala temple on August 17 sought an apology from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for allowing the 'smear campaign' against the temple.

Former Ministers S.R. Mahesh and C.S. Puttaraju led JD(S) workers from Mandya and Mysuru to Dharmasthala on August 25.

JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy speaking at the 'Satya Yatra' in Dharmasthala on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nikhil seeks probe by Central agency

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Claiming that the 'Satya Yatra' taken up by the Janata Dal (Secular) was meant to protect *dharma* and was not politically motivated, JD(S) youth wing leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Sunday said there has been a conspiracy against Dharmasthala, which has to be investigated by a Central agency.

His comments came after he sought the blessings of Lord Manjunatha, the presiding deity at Dharmasthala on Sunday. The JD(S) leader undertook the yatra with party leaders, including a host of current and former legislators.

They travelled by a bus from Hassan to Dharmasthala, and their yatra came on the eve of the Dharmasthala *chalo* rally being taken up by the BJP.

"We want to protect *dharma*. The pattadhikari (Rajya Sabha member D. Veerendra Hegde) is hurt but not showing it publicly. Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has also spoken to him to extend moral support," he said.

Accusing the government of setting up the SIT in a hurry, he said that even Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that there has been a conspiracy.

"The government is bringing disrespect to the pilgrimage centre. YouTube channels (those allegedly campaigning against Dharmasthala) have received funding from abroad. The government should have investigated when the complainant brought the skeletal remains. There could be a big institution behind the whole issue. This has to be investigated by a Central agency," he said.

Dy. CM hails Mysore kings and Urs community

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday hailed the contribution of Mysore kings and the Urs community towards building a secular and irreligious Karnataka with a focus on human development.

Speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of the Urs Association in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar said: "The Urs community may be small in size, but its contribution to the State is immense. The Wadiyar family has contributed greatly to Karnataka. The iconic KRS, the Vani Vilas Sagar dam, and the Victoria Hospital are just some of the cornerstones they laid for a progressive Karnataka. We are all enjoying the fruits of their vision and efforts."

"The Mysore kings never prescribed which *dharma* to follow as they believed that there is only one God irrespective of a large number of *dharmas*. I would like to thank the Mysore kings for setting such an example," he said.

Urs remembered

"It was Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs who provided land to lakhs of people. He was a secular leader who built leaders from backward classes as well as upper classes," he added.

Decision on internal reservation slammed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Slamming the State government over its decision on internal reservation, the Karnataka Madiga and Madiga Sub Castes Federation on Sunday said the government had faltered on the intent of the Supreme Court order.

Politically motivated

"The categorisation according to the court order should have been arrived at based on the backwardness based on data. The H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission had recommended five categories based on this. The Cabinet decision was politically motivated and social justice has been ignored," said a note that was issued after a meeting held to discuss the government decision on internal reservation.

It said that 59 minor communities that had been recommended to receive 1% reservation has been brought in with relatively well-off communities.

The note said that the decision to merge Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida, and Adi Andhra with Dalit right communities was unscientific and leading to confusion. "Even before these confusions are set right, the government has re started the recruitment process," it said.

'DKS explored secret understanding with BJP'

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal

Vijayapura MLA Basangouda R. Patil Yatnal, who was expelled from the BJP, has stirred a fresh controversy saying that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar explored a secret understanding with the BJP.

Speaking to reporters in Kalaburagi on Sunday, Mr. Yatnal said that Mr. Shivakumar met BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra in New Delhi to discuss the possibility of sharing power in the State.

According to him, the discussions included who will occupy the posts of Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister if Mr. Shivakumar joined the BJP along with Congress MLAs.

"Mr. Shivakumar has one leg in the BJP. Since he did not have the backing of a large number of Congress MLAs, he chose to remain quiet," Mr. Yatnal said.

Mr. Yatnal also said that although Mr. Shivakumar has claimed the support of 60-70 Congress legislators, the BJP's assessment suggested that only 12-13 were firmly with him, while the rest were with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"A senior BJP national leader asked my opinion about the number of Congress MLAs who were with the BJP. I said 10 or 13. I made it clear that if Mr. Shivakumar joins the BJP, none of his followers will follow suit. The leader said I was right. This is the reason why the BJP high command has decided against making any attempt to form a government with his support," Mr. Yatnal said.

Strongly opposing the very idea of Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Vijayendra coming together to form a government, Mr. Yatnal said: "If these two most corrupt politicians join hands, Mr. Shivakumar as Chief Minister and Mr. Vijayendra as Deputy Chief Minister, they will sell Karnataka. Mr. Siddaramaiah's pro-Muslim measures can be tolerated. But Mr. Shivakumar as Chief Minister cannot be tolerated."

Responding to a media query about Mr. Shivakumar singing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) anthem Namaste Sada Vatsale in the Legislative Assembly and later apologising for it, Mr. Yatnal remarked that if Mr. Shivakumar were to have sung a song praising Sonia Gandhi instead of the one praising India, he would have been made Chief Minister in Mr. Siddaramaiah's place overnight.

Meanwhile, asked by media in Bengaluru about Mr. Yatnal's statement that BJP did not induct him into the party as he did not have enough MLAs behind him, Mr. Shivakumar refused to comment by saying: "I don't want to throw stone on the cow dung."

Asked about BJP's Dharmasthala chalo campaign, he said, "If the BJP leaders have any conviction, let them get funds for Upper Bhadra project and Bengaluru development and get permissions for Mekedatu and Mahadayi. The BJP leaders must stage their protest in Delhi to get funds for the state."

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Ganesha's tryst with bad roads

Lord Ganesha is the deity people pray to for removal of all hurdles in their paths. But the pothole-ridden roads of India's Silicon Valley seem to have proved a challenge to his devotees this season. Families carrying Ganesha idols to their homes before the festival and later for immersion had to bear the brunt of bad roads. So much so, some even tied the idols with seat belts in their cars fearing damage.

The city's infrastructure bottlenecks have drawn the attention of corporate honchos such as Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and T.V. Mohandas Pai. Social media users have reacted to a recent post of Ms. Shaw, with some sharing their own ideas to improve them. One user wrote, "Traffic, pollution, garbage, roads, corruption, illegal constructions on lakes and forest areas. List goes on. People who are addicted to power, money.... cannot make anything substantial..."

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar replied to Ms. Shaw's post stating the government had the political will to turn things around. People are waiting with bated breath for this will to start showing results.

When strays stray into the Vidhana Soudha

As stray dogs are often seen feely roaming around in front of the Vidhana Soudha and the ground floor, Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader has submitted a proposal to the State government and an NGO on how this issue can be best handled and the dogs taken care of. The Speaker said stray dogs have been causing inconvenience to lawmakers and visitors. The ground floor of the complex lacks adequate protection, which has raised hygiene and safety concerns. During the Monsoon Session of the legislature, several MLAs asked Mr. Khader to remove free-roaming dogs from the premises of the Vidhana Soudha and the Legislators' Home. Some members said they are finding it difficult to even keep the doors open at the LH as dogs sleep on doormats and it is difficult to step out without stepping on them.

DKS says 'no' to 'Sugandha Raja'

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar's travel plan and itinerary always comes with a curious appeal to his fans and party workers -- not to bring 'Sugandha Raja' (tube rose) flower garlands to honour him. When journalists enquired why this special note always figured, an official in the Deputy Chief Minister's office said that Mr. Shivakumar was severely allergic to this flower.

Nagesh Prabhu

Priyank Kharge meets Poland's Deputy PM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and Information Technology Priyank Kharge met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Digital Affairs of Poland Krzysztof Gawkowski, during his official visit to Poland on Saturday.

They engaged in constructive discussions to enhance bilateral collaboration in the technology sector, with a special focus on skills advancement, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and innovation, cybersecurity, digital governance, and other emerging technologies, according to an official note from Mr. Kharge's office.

Mr. Kharge welcomed Poland's role as the partner country for the upcoming Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2025, scheduled in November.

Mr. Kharge said: "Poland has emerged as a dynamic hub for digital innovation, and we see immense potential in building strong partnerships across AI, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies".

Correction

A sentence in the report, 'M.A. Saleem appointed DG&IGP' that appeared in these columns on Sunday should have been: "However, the next three seniormost Additional Directors-General of Police who would have been in the seniority list to be promoted as DGPs – B. Dayananda, Alok Kumar and Amrit Paul – have Departmental Enquiries pending against them...," and not as published.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
MAHANADI BASIN, BURLA-768017, DIST-SAMBALPUR (ODISHA)
E-mail Id - cebmumbburla@gmail.com

Government of Odihsa - "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No- CE & BM-MB-14/2025-26 (Online)

Online tender is invited from prospective bidders for **"Construction of In-stream storage structure at downstream of the existing weir named Ayodhyasagar across river Mahanadi at Sambalpur on "EPC-Turnkey" basis including power connectivity system and operation and maintenance of complete commissioned project for five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project"**

1.	Name of Work	"Construction of In-stream storage structure at downstream of the existing weir named Ayodhyasagar across river Mahanadi at Sambalpur on "EPC-Turnkey" basis including power connectivity system and operation and maintenance of complete commissioned project for five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project."
2.	Approximate Value of work put to Tender	Rs.518,04,60,553.00/- (including O&M cost and excluding GST)
2.	Period of Completion	30 Calendar months including rainy season.
3.	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	Dt. 01.09.2025 from 11.00 AM to Dt.15.10.2025 up to 5.00 PM
4.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	Dt. 15.10.2025 up to 5.00 PM
5.	Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, At Burla, District-Sambalpur, Odisha, Pin-768017, Odisha

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla

A-502 : OIPR-32508/11/0028/2526

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

Wg Cdr (Retd)
JACOB ANTHIKAD
Arrived Sept 1, 1938 - Departed Feb 1, 2015

"You vacated your earthly abode since ten years; Your absence is marked by a cascade of tears; Your memory is an eternal flame; Which glows at the mention of your name"

Telangana passes Bills for 42% quota for BCs

The Bills have been passed at a time when two Bills and an Ordinance to the same effect have been awaiting assent of the President; the quota was decided based on a socio-economic caste survey conducted by the govt. across all the households in the State for proportional representation

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has paved the way for implementation of the 42% reservation to Backward Classes in the elections to local bodies by passing two Bills on Sunday. The Legislative Assembly has passed the Telangana Municipalities (Third Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Third Amendment) Act 2025. The Bills have been passed at a time when two Bills and an Ordinance to the same effect has been awaiting assent of the President.

Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu introduced the Municipalities Amendment Bill on behalf of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Panchayat Raj Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka introduced the Panchayat Raj Amendment Bill in the Assembly.

United voice: All parties in the Assembly were in favour of the Bills to ensure reservation. NAGARA GOPAL

Piloting the Bill, Mr. Sridhar Babu said while the reservation for SC and ST communities was proportionate to their population, reservation for Backward Classes was subject to the condition that total reservation for SC, ST and Backward Classes should not exceed 50%. The government conducted the soci-economic, education, employment, political and caste survey to obtain comprehensive scientific data covering all households in the State.

The survey was followed by constitution of a dedicated commission to conduct a contemporaneous and rigorous enquiry into the nature and extent of backwardness among BCs, particularly with reference to their representation in local bodies with a view to determining the proportion of reservation to be provided on a local body wise basis.

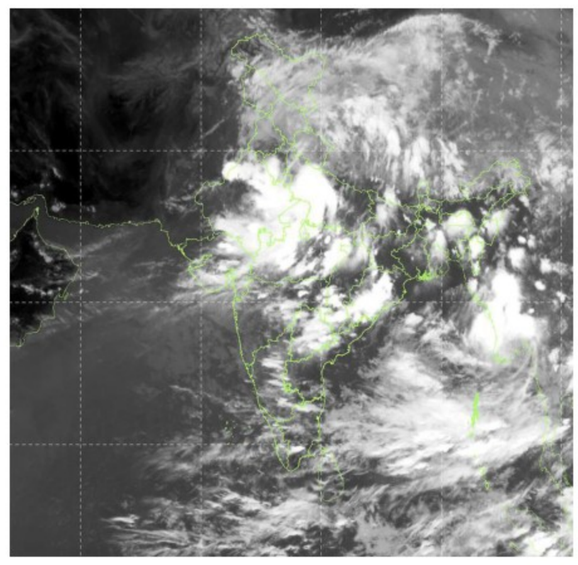
The debate during the passage of the Bills saw the Opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the BJP members raising queries about how the government planned to implement the reservation at a time when the Centre was yet to give its consent to the previous Bills passed by the State legislature.

BRS member G. Kamalakar said the BRS was in support of enhancing reservations for Backward Classes, but advised that the State government follow a methodology on the lines of Tamil Nadu to avoid scope for legal hurdles.

BJP member Payal Shankar said the BJP was in support of the Bills, but needed certain clarifications. The government promised budgetary allocation of ₹1 lakh crore for Backward Classes in five years, but no step had been initiated so far in that direction, Mr. Shankar said. "Moreover, the corporations representing Backward Classes are starving for funds while no BC official is appointed for any of the top posts," he said. Mr. Sridhar Babu however asked the members to confine to the subject without deviations asking Mr. Payal Shankar to mount pressure on the BJP Government at the Centre if the party was really committed to enhancement of reservations for BCs.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalayam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, north Tamil Nadu, east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat region. Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, coastal Karnataka and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	19.0	34.0	26.2	Kozhikode	11.0	31.5	23.0
Ahmedabad	6.0	31.6	26.0	Kurnool	12.0	31.8	24.6
Aizawl	43.0	32.9	22.1	Lucknow	—	33.7	27.2
Allahabad	18.0	35.2	25.0	Madurai	—	39.0	26.2
Bengaluru	—	29.7	21.2	Mangaluru	12.3	28.3	23.5
Bhopal	—	31.9	24.0	Mumbai	3.0	28.8	25.6
Bhubaneswar	23.0	33.2	25.9	Mysuru	8.0	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	28.1	26.7	New Delhi	—	29.6	24.6
Chennai	82.0	32.6	24.9	Patna	—	34.1	29.1
Coimbatore	—	32.6	22.6	Port Blair	7.9	28.0	24.6
Dehradun	0.4	29.0	23.4	Puducherry	—	36.5	25.4
Gangtok	12.0	22.0	17.5	Pune	0.6	27.8	20.7
Goa	3.0	30.2	25.0	Raipur	0.2	31.7	25.7
Guwahati	1.0	35.0	25.9	Ranchi	3.0	31.8	23.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	19.0	25.8	17.2
Hyderabad	—	30.0	22.6	Shimla	18.0	17.7	16.2
Imphal	—	31.7	25.0	Srinagar	—	28.5	20.3
Jaipur	20.0	31.7	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	30.9	24.2
Kochi	23.0	29.0	23.8	Tiruchi	—	35.7	27.0
Kohima	46.0	30.2	18.6	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	6.8	33.5	27.2	Visakhapatnam	—	30.9	27.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.23	..16	26	 58	85	
Bengaluru	.10	..50	61	..... —	90	
Chennai	...2	3	.—	 54	75	
Delhi	...7	..37	21	... 116	...171	
Hyderabad	.22	..22	23	 95	91	
Kolkata	...8	..65	22	 16	28	
Lucknow	...7	..35	40	 78	78	
Mumbai	.37	3	..3	 55	67	
Pune	..—	..22	69	 32	62	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..45	20	 65	...106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 125 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 8

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

State could lose ₹15,000 cr. annually from Centre's GST proposal: CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has expressed concern over Karnataka potentially losing ₹15,000 crore annually owing to the Centre's move to introduce two Goods and Services Tax (GST) slabs.

"Though we welcome rationalisation, revenue protection is our priority," he said while speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Sunday before adding that a loss of ₹15,000 crore every year was a huge sum.

When the GST was introduced in 2017, compensation was to be provided to States for a period of five years. Now, with a growth in tax by about 12% to 13%, the amount should also be compensated for the State, he said.

He said Karnataka had suggested that a cess be levied on luxury goods that attract sin taxes like cigarettes, gutka, pan masala and luxury cars, and that compensation should be given to States.

About eight States had already held discussions in New Delhi on the proposed GST reforms, and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda would attend the GST Council meeting scheduled for September 3 and 4, he said. Mr. Siddaramaiah took exception to the failure of BJP MPs and Ministers from Karnataka to raise the issue of GST.

> Though we welcome rationalisation, revenue protection is our priority
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

He said the BJP MPs had never spoken about the injustice meted out to Karnataka by the Centre.

"Instead, they are going on a pilgrimage to Dharmasthala and using the issue politically," he said.

Reacting to the BJP's plans to undertake a yatra to Dharmasthala, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the saffron party had also welcomed the constitution of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) earlier, but was now resorting to politics for the sake of votes.

Making it clear that the government had constituted the SIT to bring out the truth, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that even Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade himself had welcomed the SIT.

If the SIT had not been constituted, Dharmasthala would have always remained under suspicion, the Chief Minister said, adding that the SIT was formed after the complainant gave a statement under Section 164 before the court, and several organisations had also demanded a probe.

In response to a question about the BJP's demand for a high-level probe, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that there was no need for another investigation, according to him.

He also asked whether the BJP had handed over any case to CBI when it was in power. He said the SIT had been given complete freedom to investigate the matter and submit a report.

Referring to the yatra to Dharmasthala even by JD (S) while the investigation was still under way, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that all parties were undertaking the yatra in the name of religion.

But it was necessary for the truth to be established and doubts cleared, he said.

Albert P'Rayan

A teacher known for her innovative methods announced, "Today, I'm not going to teach any subject. Instead, I want you to raise interesting questions for a discussion. Are you ready?" The class cheered one by one, the questions tumbled out: Why does zero mean nothing? Why must two plus two always equal four? Why do we call a pen a 'pen'; if someone gave it another name, would it still be the same thing? The stunned teacher had not expected such probing, thought-provoking, and certainty- shaking questions.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Encourage them to doubt

With Teachers' Day round the corner, an educator stresses the need to celebrate curiosity in the classroom

Certainty and doubt

"There is one sin I have come to fear above all others: certainty. Certainty is the greatest enemy of unity; the deadliest foe of tolerance," said Cardinal Lawrence in the film *Conclave*, and adds, "Let us pray that God grants us a Pope who knows how to doubt." Reflecting on the quote, I wondered whether the Ministry of Education and school administrators should also pray for teachers who know how to doubt and who can instil that same spirit of curiosity in their students.

Certainty can hinder both thought and progress. Teachers who cling to certainty often resist challenge and discourage questioning. In doing so, they stifle curiosity, an essential quality that fuels fresh thinking, creative ideas, and innovation. Curiosity and imagination are closely connected and share many common traits. Curiosity prompts questions and drives the desire to explore, while imagination generates new ideas and opens paths to new solutions.

Sadly, our education system seldom values the nurturing of either curiosity or imagination. Albert Einstein once declared, "Imagination is more important than knowledge," implying that knowledge is finite and limited to what is already known, whereas imagination allows us to explore possibilities beyond current understanding. It is a powerful driver of creativity and innovation. Yet the teaching community seems not to have realised the value of imagination and the power of curiosity.

Those who doubt are often the most curious. They seek truth, question assumptions, and strive to grow. Teachers who embrace doubt encourage students to ask questions, explore ideas, and think deeply. Curiosity leads to clarity. It sparks innovation. It deserves to be celebrated in the classroom.

Does our education system celebrate certainty while discouraging curiosity? Why is certainty valued more than curiosity? Why is it important for teachers to encourage students to doubt? How can teachers help students become curious? Finding answers to these and other related, often unasked, questions can help educators cultivate their own curiosity and make the classroom a better place for seeking knowledge.

Constructive response

Let's assume that a teacher in a class made the following statements: "The Earth is round." "I'm glad you are all very attentive in class." "The object is red in colour." Now let's imagine that some curious students raised the following questions: "If the Earth is round, why don't the people at the bottom fall off?" "How do you know I'm attentive in class and not just dreaming right now?" "Who decided that red should be called 'red'? What if it looks different to you than it does to me?"

These questions challenge scientific certainty about gravity, raise doubts about the nature of reality, and question the certainty of language, meaning, and shared perception. In such situations, a teacher should use these moments as opportunities to develop reasoning, explore ideas,

A constructive teacher values questions rather than dismissing them. Even a simple "That's a good question" validates curiosity. Instead of giving ready-made answers, the teacher can ask, "What do you think?" turning passive listening into active reasoning. Some truths rest on evidence (like gravity keeping us on Earth), while others are shaped by human systems (like language and meaning). It is also fine for teachers to admit they don't know; saying, "Let's explore this together" shows that knowledge grows through inquiry, not certainty. Above all, the teacher's role is to keep curiosity alive.

A classroom blessed with curious students is like a garden of wonder, where questions bloom into creativity, innovation takes root, and the fragrance of new knowledge spreads everywhere. When teachers nurture learners' natural curiosity, both teachers and students grow wiser and inspire others to think, question, and imagine. What a beautiful garden such a classroom would be!

The writer is an ELT resource person and education columnist. Email rayanal@yahoo.co.uk

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Renewed focus

India and Japan showed that their ties were stable amid a global churn

On the first leg of his tour East, Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Japan for a two-day visit for the 15th Annual Summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba before moving to Tianjin to attend the SCO Summit. The last summit, in India, was in 2022. The two sides issued at least a dozen documents, aimed primarily at updating their agreements and giving them a "Next-Gen" focus. Japanese businesses have raised their investment targets in India to $68 billion and signed about 170 MoUs with Indian partners. Apart from the Joint Statement, there was a 2035 Vision Statement, including eight areas of cooperation such as economic security, mobility and green technology transition. A "Next-Gen State-Prefecture Partnership" highlighted grassroot-level ties and a boosting of direct flight connectivity. India and Japan updated their 2008 Security partnership to include an annual NSA-level dialogue, more engagement over the Quad, Indo-Pacific cooperation and UN Security Council reform. Of interest is their Economic Security Partnership goal to build resilient supply chains and secure critical infrastructure, using Japanese technology to help manufacture and process semiconductor technology in India, as Indian companies face Chinese restrictions on the export of rare earth magnets. Japan's collaboration with India's High Speed Rail "Bullet Train" project was showcased, with Mr. Modi and Mr. Ishiba travelling to Miyagi province by train, where they also inspected a semiconductor factory. The joint statement included strong language condemning North Korea's missile tests and nuclear programme, and the Pahalgam attack and cross-border terrorism, albeit without mention of Pakistan. The leaders also stressed the importance of the upcoming Quad Summit of leaders in India this year, which has come under a cloud over Mr. Trump's actions against India.

While the text of the India-Japan meetings was largely bilateral, the subtext was geopolitical. Mr. Modi flew to Tokyo in the wake of the massive American tariffs which threaten to upturn the Indian economy. He also chose to make Japan his first stop before his talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday towards normalising relations after a four-year standoff. Japan too is concerned about the situation in the East China Sea, and has tensions over trade with the U.S., which led it to cancel a trade negotiation team visit to Washington. The message that Mr. Modi and Mr. Ishiba sent out was that amidst geopolitical turmoil caused by global powers, the India-Japan relationship remains stable and continues to grow.

Recurrent irritant

Delay in disbursement of funds and salaries can derail research projects

Time is of the essence in science. The report that 75 women selected for the Department of Biotechnology's Biocare programme have received neither sanction letters nor salaries is reminiscent of an irksome and persistent malaise in India's research administration. Young researchers already contend with scant laboratory space, cumbersome university bureaucracies, labyrinthine grant applications, uneven mentorship and uncertain career prospects. Salaries and fellowships are modest in relation to living costs, which deters talented graduates from pursuing research. Even those determined to stay are often trapped in protracted postdoctoral or contractual roles without long-term security. In this milieu, a scheme such as Biocare promises an independent foothold while its failure to deliver on time magnifies the insecurity and discouragement. Opportunities for postdoctoral work and tenure-track openings abroad are also narrowing. Immigration regimes in the West have become tighter while competition for limited faculty posts has intensified. For Indian scientists, thus, the domestic research ecosystem is increasingly the arena in which their careers will unfold. Delays in disbursing fellowships and grants can derail entire careers.

India can no longer afford to treat such breakdowns as teething troubles. The country aspires to expand its global scientific standing, to convert research into innovation, and to train a generation of scientists to address pressing challenges in health, energy, agriculture and climate resilience. These ambitions are incompatible with a funding administration that falters at basic execution. The switch to the Treasury Single Account system, the stated reason for the Biocare delay, may strengthen transparency in the long run but there are several reasons for urgent administrative maturity right now. Foremost, science is time-sensitive: experiments must begin when facilities, collaborators and seasonal or biological conditions align. Delays break these cycles irreversibly. Second, when schemes that are progressive on paper fail to reach beneficiaries, the resulting credibility deficit will make it harder to attract domestic talent and international partnerships. Third, equity demands consistency. Women scientists, early-career fellows and those from under-represented backgrounds already contend with systemic barriers. Erratic access to funds affects them disproportionately. Scheme design must incorporate rather than externalise enforcement. Transparency must be implemented with contingencies so that beneficiaries do not become collateral damage in bureaucratic transitions. Accountability must be tightened at the level of Ministries and programme managers. Policymakers must recognise that a delay in accounting procedures for them is the interruption of livelihoods and careers for researchers.

India's economic churn, the nectar of growth

Hardeep S. Puri

is Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India

Indian civilisation has long believed that trial precedes triumph. Like the churning of the ocean, *Samudra Manthan*, where turbulence yielded nectar, our economic churns have always produced renewal. From the crisis of 1991 came liberalisation and from the COVID-19 pandemic came a digital surge. And, today, from the cacophony of doubters calling India a "dead economy" emerges the fact-rich story of resilience: faster growth, stronger buffers, and broader opportunity.

The economic data-energy security link

Consider the latest GDP numbers. Real GDP grew 7.8% in Q1 FY 2025-26, a five-quarter high. Crucially, this growth is broad-based: Gross Value Added is up 7.6%, with manufacturing 7.7%, construction 7.6%, and services approximately 9.3%. Nominal GDP expanded 8.8%. This is not an arbitrary spike – it reflects rising consumption, robust investment, and the payoff from steady public capex and logistics reforms that reduce costs across the economy.

India is now the world's fourth-largest economy, and the fastest-growing major one, outpacing even the first and second largest, the United States and China. On present trajectories, India is poised to overtake Germany and become the third-largest economy in market exchange terms before the decade ends. India's momentum matters globally; independent estimates show that India already contributes over 15% of incremental world growth. The Prime Minister has set a clear ambition – raising India's share toward 20% as reform deepens and new capacity comes online.

Markets and rating agencies have recognised this discipline. S&P Global delivered India's first sovereign rating upgrade in 18 years, citing robust growth, monetary credibility and fiscal consolidation. That upgrade lowers borrowing costs and widens the investor base. It also punctures the "dead economy" narrative: independent assessors of risk have voted with their ratings.

Equally important is who benefits. Between 2013-14 and 2022-23, 24.82 crore Indians moved out of multidimensional poverty. That shift rides on basic-services delivery at scale – bank accounts, clean cooking fuel, health cover, tap water – and on direct transfers that empower the poor to make choices. This scale of growth amid the world's most vibrant democracy and with remarkable demographic challenges is distinctive. India's model values consensus-building, competitive federalism, and last-mile delivery through digital rails. It is slower to announce, faster to implement, and built to last. When critics compare us to authoritarian sprints, they miss the point: India is building a marathoner's economy.

As India's Petroleum Minister, this writer can attest to how India's energy security supports this rapid growth. India, today, stands as the third largest energy consumer, fourth largest refiner, and fourth largest liquefied natural gas importer in the world. India operates over 5.2 million barrels per day of refining capacity, with a clear road map to expand beyond 400 million tonnes per annum by the end of the decade.

India's energy demand, which is projected to double by 2047, will account for nearly a quarter of incremental global demand, making India's success central to global energy stability. The government's approach has been to combine security with reform. Exploration acreage has expanded from 8% of sedimentary basins in 2021 to over 16% in 2025, with a target of covering one million square kilometres by 2030. The drastic reduction of so-called 'No-Go' areas by 99% has unlocked vast potential, while the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) ensures transparent and competitive bidding. New gas pricing reforms linking prices to the Indian crude basket and offering 20% premiums for deepwater and new wells have spurred investment.

A story of energy transition

India's energy story is not only about hydrocarbons; it is also about transition. Ethanol blending has surged from 1.5% in 2014 to 20% today, saving over ₹1.25 lakh crore in foreign exchange and paying more than ₹1 lakh crore directly to farmers. Over 300 compressed biogas plants are being rolled out under Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation, with a 5% blending mandate targeted by 2028. Oil public sector units (PSU) are leading the charge in green hydrogen.

Much heat has been generated in some quarters about India's purchase of Russian crude. Let us separate fact from noise. Russian oil has never been sanctioned like Iranian or Venezuelan crude; it is under a G-7/European Union price cap system deliberately designed to keep oil flowing while capping revenues. There have been 18 rounds of such packages, and India has complied with each one. Every transaction has used legal shipping and insurance, compliant traders and audited channels. India has not broken rules. India has stabilised markets and kept global prices from spiralling.

Some critics allege that India has become a "laundromat" for Russian oil. Nothing could be further from the truth. India has been the fourth-largest exporter of petroleum products for decades – long before the Ukraine conflict – and its refiners process a basket of crudes from across the globe. Exports keep supply chains functioning. Indeed, Europe itself turned to Indian fuels after banning Russian crude. The volume of exports and refining margins – Gross Refining Margins or GRMs – remains broadly the same. There is no question of profiteering.

Equally important, India acted decisively to shield its citizens when global prices spiked after the Ukraine conflict. Oil PSUs absorbed losses of up to ₹10 per litre on diesel; the government cut central and State taxes and export rules mandated that refiners selling petrol and diesel abroad must sell at least 50% of petrol and 30% of diesel in the domestic market.

These measures, at considerable fiscal cost, ensured that not a single retail outlet ran dry and that Indian households saw stable prices. The larger truth is this – there is no substitute for the world's second-largest producer supplying nearly 10% of global oil. Those who are pointing fingers ignore this fact. India's adherence to all international norms prevented a catastrophic $200-per-barrel shock, aligning with its civilisational values of *Vasudheiva Kutumbakam*.

It is the same, 'Made in India' for the world vision that shapes the new industrial revolution taking shape in India. This spans semiconductors, electronics, renewables, defence and speciality chemicals powered by production linked incentives and the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti logistics backbone. The momentum in semiconductors is now reaching a new scale – a testament to policy seriousness and execution. The Cabinet recently approved four additional semiconductor manufacturing projects under the India Semiconductor Mission. The Prime Minister's visit to a semiconductor facility in Japan, on August 30, 2025, and renewed Japanese investment commitments, underline a shared road map for resilient, trusted tech supply chains.

The digital economy multiplies these gains. India leads the world in real-time payments; the Unified Payments Interface's ubiquity raises productivity for small businesses, and India's startup ecosystem is translating innovation into exports of services and solutions. When digital rails meet hard infrastructure, the effect is compounding – lower friction, higher formalisation, and a virtuous circle of investment and consumption.

India's scoreboard has the answers

The arc ahead is promising. Independent projections (EY) suggest that by 2038, India could emerge as the world's second-largest economy in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, with a GDP above $34 trillion. This trajectory rests on steady reforms, human capital and abundant, clean, reliable energy for every enterprise and household.

The test of a great civilisation lies in its crucible moments. When doubted in the past, India responded with Green Revolutions, IT Revolutions, and the quiet dignity of millions lifting themselves through education and enterprise. Today's moment is no different. India will keep its gaze steady, its reforms relentless, and its growth rapid, democratic, and inclusive – so that the benefits reach the most underserved. To the naysayers, the scoreboard is the answer. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Viksit Bharat is not an aspiration. It is a deliverable – and the numbers are simply the latest chapter in that larger story.

India's fact-rich story of resilience, growth and energy security will silence the 'global doubters' who call it a 'dead economy'

Ukraine as a battle between America and Washington

Kadira Pethiyagoda

is an author, adviser and geopolitical strategist

The outcome of the Alaska summit, on August 15, 2025, was not the product of a diplomatic contest between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin, or the United States and Russia, or the U.S. and Europe. Neither was the outcome of talks that Mr. Trump held with European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The biggest unknown variable impacting the question of peace was how much Mr. Trump would concede to Russia. While he acceded to Mr. Putin's demand for no ceasefire without a permanent peace agreement and no North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Ukraine, Mr. Trump's campaign platform in 2024 had promised much more – an immediate end to the war.

Mr. Trump could deliver this and satisfy his base by offering the requisite incentives to Moscow in exchange for halting its advance and convincing Kyiv by leveraging arms supply and intelligence sharing. His inability to bring peace reveals the limits of power that the President of the United States has to enact the platform that he was democratically elected on.

These limits are due to a contest inside the U.S. – one that will likely shape future global security more than any other internal power struggle in any country. This includes shaping the U.S.'s responses to India's rise. It is the contest between the America-First or anti-interventionist camp, and those represented by what Mr. Trump himself rose to power deriding – the 'permanent Washington'.

From 2024 on

During the 2024 presidential campaign, Mr. Trump promised that he would end the Ukraine war 'on my first day in office' and 'before I even enter office'. This was striking. Campaign promises are usually undertakings known to be popular, and Western mainstream media had spent two years stigmatising any call for peace with Russia, delineating it as a fringe opinion. But Mr. Trump knew what was rarely revealed – that the American public agreed. Even in early 2024, 66% of Americans supported a negotiated end to the war, even if it involved compromises with Russia, as a Quincy Institute survey found.

This reflected a growing and widely held position among the American population that the U.S. should curtail its worldwide military adventures and reallocate resources domestically. Six of the last eight U.S. presidential elections were won by a candidate who wanted a less interventionist foreign policy than their opponent.

This anti-interventionist position is sanguine about other great powers such as India, China and Russia maintaining hegemony in their respective regions while the U.S. prioritises its own hemisphere.

The Trump approach versus factors

Anti-interventionism is central to Mr. Trump's 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) movement and one that is espoused by true-believers such as U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance and Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy. Mr. Trump's election victory was a popular endorsement of peace, particularly given that it was the only aspect of foreign policy where there was a meaningful, overt difference with that of the (former) U.S. President, Joe Biden.

Despite this crystal-clear mandate, and the straightforward path to peace given Russia's unambiguous, long-standing demands, Mr. Trump's approach since his election has vacillated. When it comes to optics and public narrative, he has made some strides in line with his pledges. He undermined both the deification of Ukraine (dressing down Mr. Zelenskyy at the White House) and the demonisation of Russia (Alaska Summit). In doing so, he has helped re-normalise U.S. diplomacy with its rivals, harking back to a more pragmatic time.

Mr. Trump's concrete policy actions toward peace, however, are a fraction of that promised. At most, he briefly halted weapon shipments to and intelligence sharing with Ukraine. But this was outweighed by continuing to bankroll Kyiv's defence, as well as escalations such as the secondary sanctions on India for purchasing Russian oil. Recently, Mr. Trump humoured the backers of the non-starter proposal for a 'post-war security guarantee' for Ukraine.

The reason for this dithering is a contest, an ongoing negotiation, a back and forth between Mr. Trump and his movement, and those who have largely dominated U.S. foreign policy since the death of President John F. Kennedy. The latter, proximately outlined by Eisenhower, consists of a coalition of commercial and ideological interests intersecting in their preference, primarily for continuous military action and spending, and secondarily for US global hegemony. It is represented by 'permanent Washington': 'neo-con' politicians whom it funds, and ideological civil servants, including those the Republican establishment foisted on Trump's administration. Often the contest plays out internally within individuals, sometimes inside Mr. Trump himself.

A clash

The Alaska summit is a case in point. The two forces within U.S. foreign policy clashed, sculpting a compromised result. Mr. Trump got his desired optics, a red carpet for Mr. Putin evoking grand Cold War-era summits, positioning the U.S. President as a peacemaker-statesman and staying true to his promise to the American people. Without granting concessions to Russia, however, it ensured the war would carry on and a continuation of 'permanent Washington's' interests being served.

The Ukraine war is the closest the world has ever come to a global nuclear conflagration. The path away from the abyss is not by complex international negotiations. There are complex domestic power struggles inside the U.S. The final resolution will be determined not by America versus Russia, but by America versus Washington. So too will many of the geo-strategic contests in the decades ahead.

The interests of 'permanent Washington' are the reason why Donald Trump's concrete policy actions toward peace are a fraction of what he promised

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An opportunity for India?

U.S. President Donald Trump made tariffs the centrepiece of his "America First" agenda. In an interesting twist, however, a U.S. appeals court has ruled that his sweeping global duties went beyond presidential powers (Front page, August 31). For America, tariffs have raised billions but also pushed up prices, rattled markets and angered allies. What was meant to protect U.S. jobs risks leaving America isolated, as supply chains move elsewhere. For India, this is an opening. If tariffs fall, exporters in textiles, and technology gain freer access to U.S. buyers. If they survive in limited form, India can push for exemptions, positioning itself as a stable, democratic alternative to China.

M. Jameel Ahmed,
Mysuru

Senior citizen mobile plans

The hike in basic mobile charges has placed a disproportionate burden on senior citizens. Many use phones primarily for calls, SMS and essential updates, while relying on Wi-Fi for other needs. A tailored plan with limited data, unlimited calls, and modest SMS allowance would meet their needs without financial strain. Senior-friendly plans that reflect usage patterns and economic realities must be introduced.

Sarit Ray,
Kolkata

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Giving wings to India's youth

Mansukh Mandaviya

Union Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

India's growth story has always been written by its Shram Shakti, or labour power. There has been a remarkable arc in India's economic progress over the past 11 years, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. India has risen from the world's 10th largest economy in 2014 to the fourth largest today. It has carved out an enviable niche for itself in the global arena, and the strength of its human resource has had no small role to play in this journey.

Fueling this success story is the fact that India's economic growth has been accompanied by an unprecedented expansion of employment. According to RBI-KLEMS, while only 2.9 crore jobs were created between 2004-2014, over 17 crore jobs were created in the decade that followed. Formalisation has also accelerated, as EPFO data shows.

Social security coverage

The real transformation, however, has been in social security coverage. In 2015, only 19% of Indians were covered under at least one social protection scheme. By 2025, that number has surged to 64.3%, reaching 94 crore beneficiaries, making India the second-largest social security system in the world. The International Labour Organization has acknowledged this achievement as one of the fastest expansions of coverage globally.

As we look ahead, it is clear that the future of the nation will be decided not only by the pace of GDP growth, but also by the quality of jobs we create, the security we extend to workers, and the opportunities we provide to our youth. Against a global backdrop of rising automation, uncertainties induced by Artificial Intelligence, supply-chain shifts, and other vulnerabilities shaping jobs worldwide, India stands at a demographic inflection point.

Of India's population, about 65% is under 35 years of age, constituting a critical demographic dividend that gives our economy an edge as countries in the West reflect ageing populations. For years, India's demographic dividend – its Yuva Shakti – has been cited as its greatest strength. Yet, this potential remained underutilised. As we strive towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the task before us is clear: we must shift from 'possibility' to 'prosperity'.

Employment, in this backdrop, is no longer just an economic indicator; it is the foundation of dignity, equality and national strength. It demands that we make our youth employable, integrate them into the formal economy, equip them with financial literacy, and ensure that they are protected by a robust social security net. Only then can our demographic advantage truly translate into a lasting national dividend.

An ambitious programme

It is to address this challenge, and to bridge any gap between aspiration and opportunity, that the government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana. Initially put forth in the Union Budget 2024-25. and announced by the Prime Minister in his 12th Independence Day address, it represents a significant break from the past in both scale and design. With an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore, this is the most ambitious programme in India's history, expected to create over 3.5 crore jobs over two years.

What sets this scheme apart is its architecture. Unlike earlier programmes supporting employment generation, this scheme addresses the dual challenge of youth employability and enterprise competitiveness simultaneously. By offering direct financial incentives to both first-time employees under Part A (up to ₹15,000 in two instalments) and employers under Part B (up to ₹3,000 per new hire per month), it lowers entry barriers for workers while reducing hiring risks for businesses.

Equally important is the scheme's explicit push towards formalisation and social security integration. Benefits will be channelled through Direct Benefit Transfer, ensuring transparency and linking new workers to social security systems from day one. The scheme is thus a structural nudge towards a formal, secure and productive labour market. Further, the added focus on incentives to employers in the manufacturing sector is a further propellant towards making Bharat aatmanirbhar (self-reliant).

The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana signals a shift from scheme-based interventions towards a comprehensive employment ecosystem. It builds on the learnings of earlier initiatives, such as the Production-Linked Incentive, the National Manufacturing Mission, and Make in India, and recognises the changing nature of work in a competitive global set-up.

By supporting workers and employers, the scheme recognises that job creation is a shared responsibility. As India seeks to become a global manufacturing hub while embracing digital innovation, the scheme ensures that no one is left behind. Even the smallest enterprise and the newest entrant to the workforce are integrated into the journey of national development.

A new India

This scheme is more than a policy announcement. This initiative is a concrete step towards converting demographic dividend into public prosperity. It is part of the foundation towards realisation of the vision of Viksit Bharat, where every youth has access to meaningful work, every work has dignity, and every youth gets the opportunity to realise his or her dreams. Employment is, in its truest sense, nation-building. With this initiative, the Modi government reaffirms its commitment that no aspiration will remain unsupported, and no youth will remain without opportunity.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana is a concrete step towards converting demographic dividend into public prosperity

Taking a leaf out of Raipur's book

It is time for all major cities in India to adopt the Police Commissionerate system

STATE OF PLAY

R.K.Vij

On Independence Day, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai announced that the Police Commissionerate system will soon be implemented in Raipur, to address the growing challenge of law and order. Raipur will be the first city in Chhattisgarh to have the system. The population of Raipur exceeded 10 lakh about 15 years ago (2011 Census).

The Police Commissionerate system is essentially a chain of command and control. Its two basic functions are to make decisions and implement them. In this system, the powers of executive magistrate are vested in the police officers of a given rank for certain functions. This eliminates the gap between the police and the magistrates for certain duties that involve shared responsibility, especially those linked to crime control and maintaining public order. The responsibility for all aspects of policing vests in the Police Commissioner, who is accountable for the adequate performance of her force.

There are two ways by which the powers of an executive magistrate can be entrusted to police officers – first, through powers given to States under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC); and second, through legislative powers. Since 'police' and 'public order' fall under List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, States have ample powers to legislate on issues relating to police and public order.

Until the new criminal laws were rolled out in July 2024, the mandatory condition under the CrPC was that only

metropolitan areas with a population of more than 10 lakh (as per the 2011 Census) could have a Police Commissioner. The law has changed since the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 came into place. The BNSS has removed the mandatory condition that a city or town must be notified as a metropolitan area before powers of an executive magistrate are entrusted to the Police Commissioner. Similarly, it states that the powers of an executive magistrate can be entrusted to "any police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police or (her) equivalent" by the State. Sections 14 and 15 of the BNSS deal with entrusting powers of the executive magistrate to the police.

The Police Commissionerate system dates backs to the British era. It was through the Act No. XIII of 1856 that the towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay were brought under the respective Commissioners of Police. This was a comprehensive Act which not only laid down the preventive, penal, and procedural provisions, but also dealt with the powers of the police. Samuel Wauchhope was appointed Police Commissioner for the Town of Calcutta and William Crawford for the Town of Bombay on November 1, 1856.

Gradually, separate laws were enacted for these cities. Hyderabad enacted the Hyderabad City Police Act, 1348-F (1348 Fasli equals 1938) during the Nizam period. In the 21st century, such powers were applied to other States, and the Police Commissionerate system was brought in by the States of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Most of these States (other than Orissa and Punjab which enacted their own State statutes) used powers given under the CrPC to implement the Police Commissionerate system. Since there is general resistance from the magistracy to transfer powers to the police, all Police Commissionerates are not equally strong. While some Central Acts such as the Arms Act, 1959; Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956; and Explosives Act, 1884 have provided for the powers of the Commissioner of Police, others such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; the Public Gaming Act, 1867; local Acts; and the BNSS (like the CrPC) need specific notification in this regard.

With speedy urbanisation and industrialisation, crime patterns have changed in recent years. Consultations between executive magistrates and police officials often lead to delays during urgent situations, which leads to criticism from the public. The draft Model Police Act, 2006, prepared by the Soli Sorabjee Committee, was meant to bring in a uniform law for police forces across the country; it has not been adopted in its entirety by any State. The Police Commissionerate system provides more effective policing and has stood the test of times. It is time for all major cities to adopt this system.

R.K. Vij is a former IPS officer

Unusual patterns in Bihar's deleted voter lists: a data probe

Several areas show abnormal deletions in categories such as gender and for reasons such as deaths

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

A comprehensive analysis of the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Assembly part-wise list of over 65 lakh deleted electors in Bihar reveals multiple anomalies. The patterns suggest potentially problematic issues that demand deeper investigation. Our analysis of the deleted voter data reveals eight distinct categories of anomalies.

The ECI has provided the information of deleted voters for each Assembly constituency across various parts. Parts correspond to specific polling stations. In the lists provided below, the names of the polling stations, the name of the Assembly constituency, and the name of the district are mentioned in that order.

Key findings:

- 80 parts show unusually high proportions of young deaths
- 127 parts display high gender bias in deletions
- 1,985 parts have abnormally high deletion rates
- 412 parts report excessive deaths
- 7,216 parts show high death proportions
- 973 parts show 100% death-based deletions
- 5,084 parts have high numbers of "absent" voters
- 663 parts show suspicious patterns of "permanently shifted" women

Young deaths

Pattern: *Assembly parts where more than 50 people are recorded as deceased, with at least half being under 50 years of age*. The data reveals 80 Assembly parts/polling stations across Bihar where death patterns defy demographic norms. In typical populations, deaths are heavily skewed towards older age groups, making high proportions of young deaths statistically anomalous.

Five selected Assembly parts:

1. Urdu Madhya Vidyalay Chakadariya, Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur: 58 total deaths, 50 under the age of 50 (86.2%)
2. Sant Teresa Kanya Madhya Vidyalay, Bagaha, Paschim Champaran: 70 total deaths, 59 under the age of 50 (84.3%)
3. Madarasa Bishanpur, Baisi, Purnia: 61 total deaths, 48 under the age of 50 (78.7%)
4. Uchch Vidyalay Harari, Rajnagar, Madhubani: 58 total deaths, 45 under the age of 50 (77.6%)
5. Prathmik Vidyalay Kanuniya, Raxaul, Purvi Champaran: 59 total deaths, 45 under the age of 50 (76.3%)

There is a concentration of such anomalies in border districts such as Champaran, and in international border areas

High gender bias in deletions

Pattern: *Assembly parts/stations where at least 50 women were deleted, with women comprising 80% or more of all deletions*. A troubling anomaly, with 127 parts showing high gender bias.

Five selected parts:

1. Upgraded Middle School Ramaniya Pokhar, Kishanganj, Kishanganj: 105 total deletions, 97 women (92.4%)
2. Uchch Vidhyalay Dibhiyan, Kargahar, Rohtas: 85 total deletions, 78 women (91.8%)
3. Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya Basahi, Rajpur, Buxar: 57 total deletions, 52 women (91.2%)
4. Baban Madhaw Middle School, Chapra, Saran: 64 total deletions, 58 women (90.6%)
5. Urdu Madhya Vidyalay Kudari, Bhabua, Kaimur: 64 total deletions, 57 women (89.1%)

The pattern suggests potential disenfranchisement of women voters, particularly in constituencies with significant minority populations.

Abnormally high deletion rates

Pattern: *Parts/poll stations with more than 200 deletions, far exceeding typical rates*. With 1,985 parts showing this anomaly, this represents a massive scale of voter deletions.

Three selected parts:

1. Navsrijit Prathamik Vidhyalaya Niranjana, Gopalganj, Gopalganj : 641 total deletions (599 shifted, 39 deaths, 3 absent)
2. Anganbadi Kendra Jangi Ray Ke Tola, Gopalganj, Gopalganj: 627 total deletions (all 627 shifted)
3. Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Bahudari, Shahpur, Bhojpur: 605 total deletions (539 shifted, 46 deaths)

The concentration in Gopalganj constituency is particularly striking.

Excessive death reports

Pattern: *More than 100 deaths reported per part*. About 412 parts/poll stations reported such a high number of deaths.

Three selected parts:

1. Adarsh Madhya Vidyalaya Budhiya, Banmankhi, Purnia: 181 deaths (97 male, 84 female, average age 54.9)
2. Rajakiya Polytechnic Textile Technology, Bhagalpur, Bhagalpur: 165 deaths (82 male, 83 female, average age 48.5)
3. Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Pokhar Bhinda, Manjhi, Saran: 162 deaths (78 male, 84 female, average age 68.4)

High death proportions

Pattern: *Over 75% of deletions attributed to deaths*. A staggering 7,216 parts/polling stations show this pattern, where death deletions far exceed typical demographic patterns.

Three selected parts:

1. Rajakiya Polytechnic Textile Technology, Bhagalpur: 165 deaths out of 166 deletions (99.4%)
2. Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Pokhar Bhinda, Manjhi, Saran: 162 deaths out of 191 deletions (84.8%)
3. Upgraded Middle School Dhobiniya, Kishanganj: 158 deaths out of 171 deletions (92.4%)

All deletions due to death

Pattern: *All deletions attributed solely to deaths, with no other reasons*. About 973 polling stations/parts report this statistically impossible scenario where every single deletion is due to death.

Three selected parts:

1. Balak Prathamik Vidyalay Narayana pur, Barhara, Bhojpur: All 126 deletions are deaths (average age 66.0)
2. Utkramit Madhy Vidhyalay Navakatola, Bhorey, Gopalganj: All 124 deletions are deaths (average age 56.9)
3. Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya Phulhara, Hajipur, Vaishali: All 118 deletions are deaths (average age 66.8)

Mass "absent" classifications

Pattern: *More than 50 voters marked as absent per part/station*. 5,084 stations show this pattern.

Three selected parts:

1. Kamla Rai Mahavidhyalaya, Gopalganj, Gopalganj: 457 marked absent (215 male, 242 female, average age 42.2)
2. Madhya Vidyalaya Pranpatti, Kasba, Purnia: 351 marked absent (208 male, 143 female, average age 26.3)
3. Samudaik Bhawan Chauhatta, Hajipur, Vaishali: 339 marked absent (177 male, 162 female, average age 41.9)

Suspicious women "shifts"

Pattern: *At least 60 voters marked as shifted, with 75%+ being women*. About 663 parts/stations show this pattern where women are disproportionately marked as having "shifted" residence.

Three selected parts:

1. Panchayt Bhawan Sikatiya, Kuchaikote, Gopalganj, Gopalganj: 80 shifted voters, all 80 are women (100%, average age 29.9)
2. Utkrmit Madhay Vidyalaya Chatur Bagaha, Gopalganj, Gopalganj: 63 shifted voters, all 63 are women (100%, average age 30.0)
3. Ramratan Shahi Uchhtar Madhyamik Vidyalay, Gopalganj, Gopalganj: 71 shifted voters, 70 are women (98.6%, average age 30.5)

Geographic and demographic patterns

Border districts: High concentrations of anomalies in Purnia, Kishanganj, and Champaran districts near international borders.

Gopalganj constituency: High concentrations across multiple anomaly categories, suggesting possible irregularities.

Minority-concentrated areas: Many affected parts appear to be in areas with significant Muslim populations.

Young women: Multiple categories show disproportionate impact on younger women electors (18-29 years).

Several patterns defy statistical probability:

- Booths with 100% deletions due to deaths are demographically problematic
- Gender ratios exceeding 90% in deletions contradict natural population patterns
- Young death rates of 75%+ contradict mortality statistics
- Mass "absent" classifications in specific booths calls for a re-check

A few questions need to be raised:

What verification was conducted before marking voters as deceased? Why do certain constituencies show high concentration of anomalies? Why do women seem to be excluded more? And why has such a high share of young voters been excluded under the category 'deceased' in many parts?

The ECI should examine polling stations and verify the deleted voters and establish a way of restoring excluded voters if they have been excluded erroneously. For this to happen, the deadline for the claims and objections period must be extended further.

The questions were framed thanks to civil society activist Yogendra Yadav. The data was compiled with the help of Datameet community member, Thejesh GN

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1, 1975

Work-permits to check beggar influx in Bombay suggested

Bombay, Aug. 31: A study panel, appointed by the Maharashtra Government to suggest measures for tackling begging in Bombay, has recommended introduction of a work-permit system for new entrants to the city.

It points out that the unchecked daily influx of outsiders into the city (300 families or 1500 persons) every day contains a number of professional beggars.

The report classifies beggars into three categories – 'casual', 'professionals', and 'diseased' – and suggests measures by way of relief, deterrent punishment, and treatment.

It also emphasises the importance of certain other steps such as uniform Central legislation, setting up of a State-level action committee and floating a Central fund to tackle the problem which "is essentially social and economic."

The panel recommends that the State Government should immediately start levying a surcharge of five paise per ticket costing more than 25 paise issued by the Bombay Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) to its bus commuters and the revenue be credited to the Central fund.

The report terms work-permit system as a "radical remedy" for a "radical situation", arising out of a "cumulative effect of the influx in Bombay". In fact the city has already begun to croak and groan under the pressure of the daily influx of outsiders and air and water pollution are causing serious problems leading to an increase in the incidence of bronchitis, eye and skin diseases and similar other ailments, the report says.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1, 1925

Metur reservoir project

"The Times" (Trade Supplement) of August 1st writes: A few days ago, Lord Goschen, Governor of Madras, formally inaugurated the Cauvery (Metur) irrigation project, which has been under consideration in varying forms since the early years of Queen Victoria's reign. The work is estimated to cost 612 lakhs of rupees, the equivalent at present rates of exchange of close upon £4,600,000, and its object is to store the floodwaters of the River Cauvery, passing them down to the delta for developed irrigation use as and when required.

From Page One

‘India, China committed to resolve border issue’

They agreed to facilitate trade and investment ties while reducing their trade deficit, he said. The two leaders discussed the international economic situation, with Mr. Modi telling Mr. Xi that growing trade will contribute to a change in the world’s perception of China, the Foreign Secretary added.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariff wars, but Mr. Modi insisted that the relationship between India and China should not be seen through a “third-country lens”. While the Prime Minister noted that both countries pursue strategic autonomy, the two leaders said they would expand their common ground on bilateral, regional, and global issues and challenges, such as terrorism and fair trade in multilateral platforms, the MEA statement said.

‘Positive momentum’

“Had a fruitful meeting with President Xi Jinping... We reviewed positive momentum in India-China relations since our last meeting in Kazan [in Russia, in October 2024],” Mr. Modi said in a post on X. “We agreed on maintaining peace and tranquility in border areas and reaffirmed our commitment to cooperation based on mutual respect, mutual interest, and mutual solidarity,” he added.

The two countries should work together to ensure peace and not let the border issue define their overall relations, Mr. Xi said, adding that the “cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant should be the right choice for the two countries”. China and India are not rivals, but cooperation partners, Mr. Xi said, a sentiment which is echoed by Mr. Modi. Both leaders reaffirmed that the two countries are “development partners and not rivals, and their differences should not turn to disputes”, the MEA said.

The Prime Minister also met with Myanmar’s Senior General Min Aung Hlain and reiterated India’s readiness to support developmental needs of the crisis-hit country. He noted that India attaches importance to its ties with Myanmar as part of its ‘Neighborhood First’, ‘Act East’, and Indo-Pacific policies, the MEA said in a statement.

Mr. Modi expressed the hope that the forthcoming elections in Myanmar will be held in a fair and inclusive manner involving all stakeholders. He underlined that India supports a Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned peace process, for which peaceful dialogue and consultation is the only way forward, the MEA added.

Signals support for Tianjin Declaration

The Prime Minister also attended a banquet gala with other SCO leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, hosted by Mr. Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan on Sunday night.

Mr. Modi expressed support for China’s presidency of the ongoing summit, the MEA said, indicating that he is unlikely to raise any objections to the Tianjin Declaration that is expected to be signed and issued on Monday, following the meeting of the heads of state of the 10-member grouping.

Mr. Modi also invited Mr. Xi to the BRICS summit that India will host in 2026. Mr. Xi “thanked the Prime Minister for the invitation” and extended support for India’s presidency of that grouping, the MEA statement added.

The Prime Minister also met with Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China, seeking support to “realise the vision of the two leaders”. Mr. Cai reiterated the Chinese side’s desire to expand bilateral exchanges and further improve relations in line with the consensus reached between the two leaders, the Ministry said.

(The writer is in China on the invitation of the China Public Diplomacy Association)

Both countries victims of terrorism, PM tells Xi

“[The] Prime Minister outlined his understanding very crisply and very specifically. He outlined the fact that this is a scourge that both China and India have been victims of, and India is still combating this menace, and he asked for China’s support on this particular issue,” Mr. Misri said at the media briefing held in Tianjin after Sunday’s meeting.

No comment on Chinese aid to Pakistan

In response to another question, Mr. Misri reiterated that the Prime Minister mentioned cross-border terrorism as a priority. “[Mr. Modi] underlined the fact that this is something that impacts both India and China and that it’s important therefore that we extend understanding and extend support to each other as both of us combat cross-border terrorism,” he added, side-stepping a question on China’s support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Mr. Misri also said that India has received China’s “understanding and cooperation” at the SCO on the issue of countering cross-border terrorism. India is hopeful of strong references to the issue of cross-border terrorism in the SCO joint statement to be released on Monday.

Shifting stance

When asked, officials did not clarify which specific incidents of terrorism against China Mr. Misri was referring to. Over the past decade, China has blamed Tibetan and Uyghur groups for violence in the country, and Baloch groups for attacks on Chinese workers in Pakistan. However, India has not previously endorsed those claims, and has on occasion raised the issue of human rights in Xinjiang and Balochistan.

Tribal leader killed by Kuki extremists in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Kuki extremists allegedly killed an Assam-based Thadou community leader who took part in a peace meeting with Meitei organisations in Manipur’s capital, Imphal, almost a month ago.

The Thadous have been asserting their distinct ethnic identity, refusing to be clubbed as a Kuki tribe. The Thadous were affected by the Kuki-Meitei conflict that broke out in Manipur in May 2023.

The police in central Assam’s Karbi Anglong district said Nehkam Jomhao, 59, was abducted from his residence at Chonghang Veng in the Manja area on Saturday around 7.30 p.m., and killed later. No Kuki extremist group has claimed responsibility for the Thadou leader’s death.

“We arrested six people, including members of the KRA (Kuki Revolutionary Army). They confessed to having killed the abducted person, whose body is yet to be recovered,” the district’s Superintendent of Police, Sanjib Saikia, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Thadou organisations, however, said Jomhao was murdered for pursuing peace with the Meiteis, which was seen as a defiance of the diktats of several Kuki armed groups.

NGO Educate Girls wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

It brought unschooled or out-of-school girls into classroom, and worked to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and employment, says foundation

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Educate Girls, an Indian non-profit organisation working to educate unprivileged girls across the country, has been named as one of the three winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, 2025. The other winners are Shaahina Ali of the Maldives and Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva of the Philippines.

Announcing the award for Educate Girls, also known as Foundation to Educate Girls Globally, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said on Sunday that it was “an Indian organisation whose groundbreaking work in addressing gender injustice in education in India’s most rural and remote areas creates a ripple effect that uplifts families, communities, and entire societies”.

“Starting out in Rajasthan, Educate Girls identified the neediest communities in terms of girls’ education, brought unschooled or out-of-school girls into the classroom, and worked to keep them there until they were able to acquire credentials for higher education and gainful employment,” it said.

Bridging the gap: In this photo provided by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Safeena Husain, left, founder and Board member of the Foundation to Educate Girls, talks to a group in Rajasthan. AP

Reflecting on the milestone, Safeena Husain, the founder of Educate Girls, said, “Being the first Indian non-profit to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award is a historic moment for Educate Girls and for the country. This recognition places a global spotlight on India’s people-powered movement for girls’ education, one that began with a single girl in the remotest village and grew to reshape entire communities, challenging traditions and shifting mindsets.

Acknowledging the award, Gayatri Nair Lobo, CEO of Educate Girls, said the announcement was “historic and humbling”.

Thrilling news

“Educate Girls is the first Indian organisation to win the Ramon Magsaysay Award. It is an absolutely thrilling news for us and this award belongs to our teams across the country – our *preraks*, our team *balika*, the government, our donors and partners. But mostly this award belongs to our girls. Our girls who work tirelessly to get education,” said Ms. Lobo in a video statement while congratulating environmental activist Shaahina Ali of the Maldives and Fr. Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva of the Philippines, who shot to fame for opposing former President Rodrigo Duterte’s infamous drug war which led to widespread human rights abuse.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was started in 1958 to celebrate “greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia”. Since 1958, over 300 achievers and organisations from Asia have received this award.

(With PTI inputs)

India halts all mails to U.S. due to lack of clarity

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India Post has suspended all categories of mail operations destined to the U.S. in the absence of clarity over new rules issued by the U.S. Customs Department, an official statement said on Sunday.

Earlier, the country’s Postal department had temporarily suspended postal services for gifts valued above $100 due to the new custom rules issued by the U.S. government.

“In continuation of the Public Notice dated August 22, 2025, the Department of Posts has reviewed the suspension of booking of mails to the United States of America. In view of the ongoing inability of carriers to transport U.S.-bound mail and in the absence of defined regulatory mechanisms, it has been decided to completely suspend the booking of all categories of mail, including letters, documents, and gift items valued up to $100, destined for the USA,” the statement said.

The Department of Posts said it was closely monitoring the situation and making every effort to restore services at the earliest. “Customers who have already booked items that could not be dispatched may claim a refund of postage,” the statement said.

Govt. to offer quick liquidity to tariff-hit exporters

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has come up with an “action plan” to respond to the tariff escalation by the U.S., which includes short-, medium-, and long-term measures aimed at not only addressing the short-term pain points but also increasing long-term competitiveness, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

According to sources, the short-term measures include providing immediate liquidity and compliance relief to exporters and helping them maintain order levels and employment in vulnerable sectors.

“The Government of India is proactively responding with a timely, well-calibrated, and comprehensive multi-tiered strategy designed not only to safeguard Indian exporters but also to strengthen our long-term competitiveness in global markets,” the spokesperson said. “The Department of Commerce has framed a short-, medium-, and long-term action plan to respond to this tariff escalation.”

Tweaking export model

The government is working out ways to deflect the blow to exporters from the U.S. tariffs

- The plan includes **short-, medium-, and long-term measures** to address pain points and boost competitiveness
- It is based on a few “guiding principles”: providing immediate relief with regard to liquidity, compliances, and order levels, **building resilience in supply chains, leveraging existing trade agreements,** and providing non-financial assistance

‘Guiding principles’

According to sources in the Ministry, this action plan is based on a few “guiding principles”: providing immediate relief to exporters with regard to liquidity, compliance, and order levels, building resilience in supply chains, leveraging existing trade agreements, and providing other non-financial assistance to exporters.

“It is anticipated that exporters may face delayed payments, stretched receivable cycles, and cancelled orders due to the tariff shock,” a source said.

“To prevent working capital stress and protect employment, the government is considering several steps to ease liquidity, prevent insolvencies, and allow exporters to sustain operations until new markets are tapped.”

The Hindu has learnt from various export promotion bodies that liquidity crunch is a major concern for exporters as they have already bought the stock that they would have exported to the U.S. under normal circumstances.

‘Critical risk’

“A critical risk is a drop in order levels, particularly in SEZ-based units which contribute significantly to labour-intensive exports,” the source explained. They confirmed *The Hindu’s* August 13 report about the government tweaking the Export Promotion Mission, announced in the Union Budget 2025, to better align it with the needs of the currently affected export sectors.

That plan is currently being appraised by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). It will include ‘Niryat Protsahan’ or helping exporters with trade finance access such as interest subvention, e-commerce export cards, and collateral support.

The government is also considering some SEZ policy flexibility norms to help SEZs to sustain production volumes and scale.

The medium- and long-term strategy includes leveraging the existing Free Trade Agreements that India has signed, an export diversification push so that large shares of exports don’t go to any single country, establishing strategic autonomy in crucial sectors, and creating digital trade infrastructure in the form of the BharatTradeNet.

Indian Army tests combat readiness in Arunachal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 in the high-altitude Kameng region of Arunachal Pradesh, showcasing its preparedness for next-generation warfare in extreme Himalayan conditions.

Observed by the General Officer Commanding of Gajraj Corps, the exercise featured large-scale manoeuvres with drone surveillance, precision strikes, real-time target acquisition, air-littoral operations and synchronised battlefield tactics. According to the Army, a major highlight was the operational debut of the newly raised ASHNI platoons.

Simplifying the mammoth Income Tax Act in six months

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

How did the Income Tax Department complete the “mammoth” task of rationalising and simplifying the huge Income Tax Act, 1961 in just about six months, and then implementing the Select Committee’s voluminous suggestions in just one month? By cramming in 75,000 man-hours of work in that time and even putting probationers on the job, that’s how.

The result was the hugely condensed and significantly more user-friendly Income Tax Act, 2025.

“The announcement by the honourable Finance Minister was made on July 23, 2024 that within six months the entire process of simplification of the law, to make it more lucid, clear, and precise will be achieved,” R.N. Parbat, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) member in charge of legislation, told *The Hindu*. “The task was given to the Department of Revenue and the CBDT. It was to be done in-house.”

By August 14, the drafting committee under Chief Commissioner of Income Tax V.K. Gupta was formed, and that’s when the work began in earnest. Subcommittees were formed to look at every aspect of the law with a view to remove redundant sections and review the rest.

26 subcommittees

As the scope of the work became more clear – the original 1961 Act had 819 sections – the number of subcommittees also grew. By the end of it, there were 26 different subcommittees, according to Mr. Parbat.

Apart from this, the process also incorporated a review committee that was tasked with reviewing the work done by the drafting subcommittees.

“Once the review committee completed its work, it came to the Tax Policy and Legislation [TPL] division of the CBDT,” Mr. Parbat explained. “And after that, when a draft was formed, it was reviewed by another set of senior officers of the CBDT.”

Throughout this, the Revenue Secretary and the Finance Minister took regular briefings with the drafting committee and the TPL, while the Ministry of Law was also consulted.

“The work was broad-based, with more than 150 officers of the Department working on it,” Mr. Parbat said. “That included our Chairman, who was from the 1988 batch. At the same time, the junior-most person on the team was from the 2018 batch. Officers from all over India were selected for this purpose. We also involved our probationers who were undergoing training in Nagpur involved in the process.”

On deck: The Income Tax Act, 2025, will come into effect from the next financial year, beginning April 1, 2026. GETTY IMAGES

The draft of the Bill was laid before Parliament on February 13, 2025, six months after the drafting committee was formed. The number of chapters has been slashed from 47 to 23 and the number of sections from 819 to 536.

The new Bill included 57 tables as explanations, up from 18, and 46 formulae compared with the previous six.

The language was greatly simplified, jargon and archaic words such as ‘notwithstanding’ were removed as far as possible, and examples were provided where needed.

To put this in context, the Parliamentary Select Committee that was tasked with reviewing these changes took five months to submit its report.

“They forwarded around 1,312 suggestions to us, so again our TPL division officers along with the core committee members of the drafting committee formulated the written replies and submitted them to the Select Committee,” Mr. Parbat said.

After receiving the written and oral replies from the Revenue Secretary, the Chairman of the CBDT, Mr. Parbat and his team, along with the core members of the drafting committee, the Standing Committee submitted its report to Parliament on July 16, 2025.

‘Mammoth task’

The revised Bill was then passed in Parliament on August 12, 2025 – just one year after the drafting committee was formed.

“The process was started and completed within the time given to us, so there is no question any longer of whether we would have preferred more time to do it,” Mr. Parbat said. “It was a mammoth task that involved 75,000 man-hours, so whether you put it in two years or six months, that is the amount of work that was needed.”

'New normal' defined by aggressive Beijing and spineless govt.: Cong.

Party says Prime Minister's visit to Tianjin should be evaluated in the context of the bilateral relationship beginning with the conflict at Galwan Valley in 2020; it speaks of the Chinese tango with Pakistan as seen during Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Is the Indian government's push on reconciliation with China a "*de facto* legitimising" of its territorial aggression, the Congress demanded to know, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tianjin on Sunday.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a long post on X, said it seemed the "new normal" was to be defined by Chinese bullying and "government's spinelessness".

Mr. Ramesh said the Prime Minister's visit should be evaluated in the context of the bilateral relationship, beginning with the conflict at Galwan Valley in 2020 in which 20 Indian armed forces personnel were killed. Mr. Ramesh said rather than identifying the Chinese aggression on June 19, 2020, Mr. Modi gave an "infamous" clean chit to China.

Diplomatic meet: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, in Tianjin. PTI

He said the Army chief had demanded a full restoration of the status quo on the border with China in Ladakh.

"Despite failing to achieve that, the Modi government has pushed forward on reconciliation with China, de facto legitimising their territorial aggression," Mr. Ramesh noted.

On July 4, 2025, the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, Lt. Gen Rahul Singh, spoke forcefully and candidly on China's *jugalbandi* with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, he said. "Rather than respond to this unholy alliance, the Modi government has quietly accepted it as fait accompli and is now rewarding China with state visits," Mr. Ramesh wrote.

'Govt. in silent mode'

China has announced a gigantic hydel project on the Yarlung Tsangpo that has very grave implications for Northeast India, he said, adding the "Modi government has not spoken a word on this issue".

Mr. Ramesh said that uncontrolled "dumping" of imports from China continued to devastate the micro, small and medium enterprises in the country. "Unlike other countries, we have largely let the Chinese importers have free rein," he said. "Is the 'new normal' to be defined by Chinese aggression and bullying and our government's spinelessness," Mr. Ramesh asked.

In his televised opening remarks during his meeting with Mr. Xi, Mr. Modi said the welfare of 2.8 billion people was linked to cooperation between India and China.

The talks between the two leaders on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit came against the backdrop of turbulence triggered by the Trump administration's tariff tussle.

Mr. Modi landed in Tianjin on Saturday from Japan on the second leg of his two-nation trip. It is his first trip to China after the eastern Ladakh border row that began in May 2020.

On the draw

MIKA AZIZI

With tailwind from yatra, Congress to seek a better seat-sharing deal in Bihar

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will formally end his two-week "Voter Adhikar Yatra" against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar with a symbolic march from Gandhi Maidan to B.R. Ambedkar Park in Patna followed by a rally.

Accompanied by Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Dipankar Bhattacharya of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), and Mukesh Sahani of the Vikassheel Insaan Party, Mr. Gandhi has covered over 1,300 km across 25 districts and 110 Assembly constituencies.

"For a State that has seen historic deprivation and hardships, the threat of their one true power – the right to vote – being stolen was unimaginable. The fear they had in their hearts needed comforting, and the Yatra came in as a ray of hope against the blatant destruction of democracy being orchestrated in the name of SIR," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal posted on X.

Beyond highlighting deletions of voter names from the rolls, Mr. Gandhi's yatra – mostly in open SUVs and on motorcycles – has mobilised crowds and shaped a narrative. Amplified by the slogan "Vote *chor*, *gaddi chhodd* (Vote thief, vacate the seat)", the yatra is framed as a fight to protect "one person, one vote".

A cut-out of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Patna on Sunday, the eve of the conclusion of the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar capital. PTI

Drawing on the Congress's 2024 Lok Sabha pitch linking the BJP's "400 paar" call to ending reservation, Mr. Gandhi has connected deletions to the loss of entitlements. "Rahul*ji* has been telling people that by removing their names from the electoral rolls, the BJP-JD(U) [ruling combine] is not only taking away their right to vote but gradually other entitlements such as subsidised ration, pension, farmers' subsidy, employment allowance will all go," Congress leader Kishor Kumar Jha told *The Hindu*.

"People need to understand that their vote is their most basic right. If that is gone, then others can be taken away very easily," Mr. Jha said in Madhubani.

Like his analysis of the Mahadevapura Assembly segment in Bangalore, Mr. Gandhi says he will soon present "proof" of voter fraud in Maharashtra, Haryana, and Karnataka.

United face

Despite the Trinamool Congress decision to send lightweights like first-time MP Yusuf Pathan to Monday's rally, the yatra managed to convey a sense of Opposition unity, with DMK chief M.K. Stalin and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav bolstering this message with their participation.

The yatra has positioned the Congress as a key player in Bihar's grand alliance despite its modest 2020 tally – 19 of 70 seats contested, with a vote share under 10%. Having drawn crowds, the party will aim for a better seat-sharing deal while facing the larger test: converting enthusiasm into votes by strengthening its organisation and sharpening message on jobs and welfare.

NDA will win more than 200 seats in Bihar, says Rai

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Taking a dig at the Voter Adhikar Yatra of the Congress, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said here on Sunday that the INDIA bloc would be reduced to fewer than 40 seats in the Bihar Assembly election. He said that once again an NDA government would be formed in the State under the leadership of Nitish Kumar by winning more than 200 seats.

Lashing out at the yatra led by Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav, the senior BJP leader said it was full of hatred and was organised to mislead the people of Bihar.

"A platform was provided to abuse the country's popular Prime Minister Narendra Modi*ji* and his respected mother. The event was organised to give protection to foreign infiltrators including Rohingya and Bangladeshis and to prove their illegal voting rights as legitimate," Mr. Rai at a press conference.

More than 33,000 people apply for re-inclusion on Bihar electoral rolls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With just a day left for filing claims and objections in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the Election Commission said on Sunday that 33,326 people had applied for re-inclusion on the voter list.

The draft electoral rolls published on August 1 included 7.24 crore people, 65 lakh fewer names than on the voter list published before the SIR exercise began.

Poll prep: A booth-level officer checks documents during the SIR exercise in Araria of Bihar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Over 2 lakh objections

In an official statement, the EC said that 33,326 people had filed claims for re-inclusion while 15,32,438 applications had been received from new electors who had recently turned 18 and become eligible to vote.

The commission said that 2,07,565 objections had been filed, challenging names included on the draft electoral rolls.

The final rolls will be published on September 30.

On Monday, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear petitions filed by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and others, seeking an extension of the deadline to file claims and objections to the draft list.

In response to queries under the Right to Information Act (RTI) Act, the commission refused to provide details on the basis of its decision to conduct an SIR exercise, or to provide a copy of the order for the last intensive revision of electoral rolls in 2003.

Transparency activist Anjali Bhardwaj had filed two separate RTI petitions with the Election Commission. In both its responses, the EC simply shared the link to its 2025 SIR order.

In the first plea, the activist had asked for a copy of any independent appraisal or study or analysis undertaken based on which the EC decided to initiate an SIR across the country in 2025.

She sought a copy of all the files related to the SIR exercise, including notings, correspondence and records which are part of the files.

Unclear response

In its response, the election body asked Ms. Bhardwaj to refer to its June 24 guideline, which it said is "self-explanatory and available" on its website. The EC also provided a link to the same.

Further, no information was available in the commission, it said.

In the second RTI application, Ms. Bhardwaj sought a copy of the order or the notification through which an intensive revision of electoral rolls was carried out for Bihar in 2003.

She also sought a copy of the guidelines issued for that revision which specify the manner and procedure of revisions, the prescribed forms and list of documents required to be furnished, among others.

The Election Commission did not provide the details sought under the RTI Act, and provided a link to the June 24 order again.

FIR in Raipur over Mahua Moitra's 'unconstitutional' comments on Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has been booked in Raipur for her alleged "objectionable" remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a senior police officer said.

An FIR under Sections 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.,) and 197 (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, has been lodged at the Mana police station here against the remarks attributed to the MP, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Lal Umed Singh told *The Hindu*.

The FIR, he said, was based on a complaint filed by one Gopal Samanto, who alleged that Ms. Moitra's remarks were objectionable and unconstitutional.

Mahua Moitra's comments were objectionable, unconstitutional, as per the FIR. PTI

In her purported remarks, which triggered a political row, Ms. Moitra allegedly said that if Mr. Shah failed to stop infiltration from Bangladesh, "the first thing you should do is cut Amit Shah's head and put it on your table".

She allegedly made the statement while speaking to reporters in West Bengal's Nadia district on the sidelines of an event last week.

In a video posted on X, the Trinamool MP says her comments on Mr. Shah were idiomatic, figurative

The complainant also stated that he was a Bengali and feared that such remarks might provoke a backlash from other communities against them, according to the FIR.

Earlier on Saturday, Ms. Moitra posted a video on X addressing what she referred to as "*Mundu Kata Hoo Haa*" (Bangla for hullabaloo around cutting head).

In the video, she recited a poem by the late Bengali poet Sukumar Ray to convey that she had been speaking idiomatically or figuratively.

Trinamool leaders, kin on list of 'tainted teachers'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Names of several Trinamool Congress leaders and their kin have surfaced on the list of "tainted/ineligible" candidates published by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) on the directions of the Supreme Court.

The most notable names include Sampa Ghosh, daughter-in-law of Panihati MLA and chief whip of the Trinamool Congress Nirmal Ghosh.

The WBSSC came out with the list after a Supreme Court Bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Satish Chandra Sharma came down heavily on the commission and directed it to publish the names.

The court asked the WBSSC to ensure that tainted candidates would not be able to appear for the fresh recruitment process.

TELANGANA FOODS
IDA, NACHARAM, HYDERABAD - 500076
Phone No.040-27152207,08 & 09

Tender No. TF/GG/Tender/1552/RM/GN-RF/CP-TP/Salt/HM-HDPE/HDPE/2025-26, Dt.30.08.2025

Telangana Foods invites e-tenders for procurement of (i) 150 MTs of Rice Flakes (ii) 30 MTs of Groundnuts (iii) 6 MTs of Chilli Powder (iv) 4 MTs of Turmeric Powder (v) 60 MTs of Refined Iodized Salt (vi) HM-HDPE Bags: 2,00,000 Nos and (vii) 22,00,000 Nos of HDPE Bags. For details please visit website: https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in and website: tfoods.telangana.gov.in. Bids can be downloaded from 01.09.2025 @ 5.00 pm onwards.

R.O. No.:559-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26

Sd/-
Managing Director

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilk Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

EOI Ref. No. :- F4.15(1)/RISL/Tech/3145 Date :- 25 August, 2025

RISL invites proposals from the eligible bidders to establish and operate Atal Innovation Studio and Accelerator facility at Jaipur on or before 15-10-2025 3:00 PM. Detail of EoI, eligibility criteria, schedule and conditions can be seen on following websites.

https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, https://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, https://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in.

UBN : RIS2526RFP0001

Raj.Samwad/C/25/9003 OIC Project

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर
दूरभाष: 0294-2481538, ई-मेल: ace.uda.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक: अ.मु.अ./उदय/अंके./2025-26/7503-7512 दिनांक: 19.08.2025

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 15-17/2025-26

जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर के अधीन विभिन्न ग्रामों में "जल जीवन मिशन" के तहत पेयजल योजनाओ के कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन बिडस् इच्छुक पात्र बिडर्स ई-निविदा संख्या **15-17/2025-26 दिनांक 21.08.2025 सुबह 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 10.09.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक** तक आंमत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

यू.बी.एन. नम्बर:—
NIT No.: 15/25-26 UBN No.: PHE2526WLOB05576
NIT No.: 16/25-26 UBN No.: PHE2526WSOB05578
NIT No.: 17/25-26 UBN No.: PHE2526WLOB05579

(शैतान सिंह) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर

DIPR/C/12287/2025

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त-दौसा (राज.)
क्रमांक फा./ निविदा/2025-26/2319 दिनांक : 18/08/2025

निविदा संशोधन (Corrigendum)

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1575-1589 दिनांक 11.07.2025 से जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/2025-26 दौसा जिले में परिवर्तित बजट वर्ष 2025-26 की घोषणा के अन्तर्गत संभाग टोंक के अधीन वृत दौसा के खण्ड दौसा / लालसोट/ सिकन्दरा/ बांदीकुई/महवा में मिसिंग लिंक / नॉन पेचेबल के 11 पैकेज निर्माण कार्यों की डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. राज. जयपुर के राजकाज नम्बर 12921520 दिनांक 28.03.2025 के अन्तर्गत वर्णित तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है जिन्हें वेबसाईट **"http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/tenders.asp** व विभागीय वेबसाईट **"http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in"** व **"http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **www.sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। पूर्व प्रकाशित आर.ओ. नं. DIPR/C/10280/2025/date 11.07.2025

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशन की तिथियां	संशोधित तिथियां
निविदा आवेदन/ डाउनलोड करने की तारीख	दिनांक 18.07.2025 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 19.08.2025 सायं 6:00 बजे तक	दिनांक 18.07.2025 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 08.09.2025 सायं 6:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा जमा/ अपलोड कराने की तारीख	दिनांक 18.07.2025 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 19.08.2025 सायं 6:00 बजे तक	दिनांक 18.07.2025 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 08.09.2025 सायं 6:00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	दिनांक 20.08.2025 को दोपहर 02:00 बजे कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त दौसा	दिनांक 09.09.2025 को दोपहर 02:00 बजे कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त दौसा

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेगी।

NIB code	PWD2526A1997	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07188 PWD2526WSOB07189
NIB code	PWD2526A1998	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07202 PWD2526WLOB07203
NIB code	PWD2526A2006	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07207 PWD2526WSOB07208 PWD2526WSOB07209
NIB code	PWD2526A2022	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07273 PWD2526WSOB07274
NIB code	PWD2526A2023	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07275 PWD2526WLOB07276

(एम. एल. मीना)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त दौसा

DIPR/C/12315/2025

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project)
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore - 560 09

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

BWSSB invities Expression of Interest from qualified agencies to support the Board in obtaining ISO 50001 certification for key Water Pumping Stations located at T.K.Halli, Harohalli, Tataguni, and the BWSSB Head Office.

EOI work will be available on the website from: **01.09.2025.** The last date for proposal of EoI: **10.09.2025 upto 16:00.** The details regarding the EoI and participation in the the process can be obtained by logging on to **bwssb.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact undersigned office during the working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)

DIPR/CP/2564/SA/2025-26

INBRIEF

Australian govt. condemns rally against immigration

The Australian government on Sunday disapproved the campaigns taking place across various cities against increasing migration of Indians, saying "brand of far-right activism grounded in racism and ethnocentrism" has no place in the country. March for Australia rallies were held in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, among others, against immigration, according to the group's website. In a release, the Australian government said, the Anthony Albanese government stands against the events planned for the weekend. "All Australians, no matter their heritage, have the right to feel safe and welcome in our community," the statement said. PTI

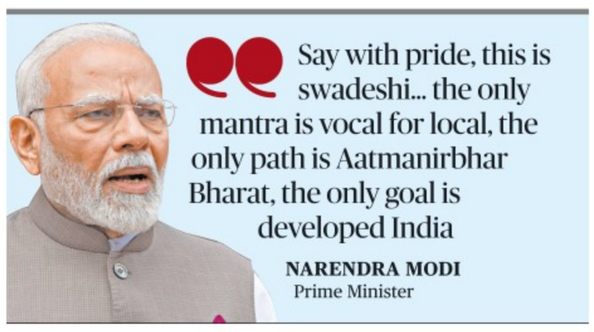
19 NHPC employees stuck for hours after landslide

Nineteen employees of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) were trapped inside a power house for hours on Sunday as a landslide blocked normal and emergency tunnels of Dhauliganga Power Project in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh, officials said. However, all of them were rescued by evening. The path leading to the normal and emergency tunnels of the 280 MW power project in the Ealagarh area near Dharchula in the district was blocked due to a landslide caused by heavy rain. Pithoragarh District Magistrate Vinod Goswami said that a joint team of the district administration, SDRF, and BRO started rescue and relief operations. PTI

Indians must follow 'vocal for local' mantra, says PM

In his monthly broadcast *Mann Ki Baat*, Modi calls for a self-reliant India, amid trade turmoil due to the U.S. tariffs; expresses anguish at the havoc caused by natural disasters in the country

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Say with pride, this is swadeshi... the only mantra is vocal for local, the only path is Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the only goal is developed India
NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged Indians to take pride in "swadeshi (made in India)" products as the festival season approaches. In his monthly radio address *Mann Ki Baat*, he stressed that India should follow one mantra, "Vocal for Local"; one path, "Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)"; and one goal, "developed India".

Everything that is needed in life should be swadeshi, he said, reiterating his recent appeal for the country to become self-reliant after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a 50% tariff on Indian goods.

As different parts of the country celebrate Ganesh Chathurthi, and as Durga Puja and Deepavali approach, he said that people should not forget about swadeshi products during the festivals, while purchasing gifts, clothes, or decor items.

"Say with pride, 'This is swadeshi'," he said, repeating the phrase thrice. "The only mantra is vocal for local, the only path is Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the only goal is developed India," he said in the concluding remarks of his monthly broadcast.

He also expressed his anguish at the havoc that natural disasters had wreaked during the rainy season. "This monsoon season, natural disasters are testing the country," Mr. Modi said.

"At places, homes were destroyed; at others, fields were submerged; families were ruined in large numbers. Elsewhere, bridges were swept away by gushing water; roads were washed away; people's lives were enmeshed in danger. These incidents have saddened every Indian," he said.

The Prime Minister added that national and State emergency forces had toiled day and night to help people. Modern technology and resources, such as thermal cameras, life detectors, sniffer dogs and drone surveillance, have been deployed in rescue and relief efforts, he said, adding that security forces, local populations, social workers, doctors, and the administration had made every possible effort in this hour of crisis.

J&K sports events

He highlighted two major events in Jammu and Kashmir amid the devastating natural calamity – the first day-night cricket match in Pulwama and a water sports festival in Srinagar.

"Not many people noticed these. But you will be happy to know about those achievements. A record number of people gathered in a stadium in Pulwama... Pulwama's first day-night cricket match was played here. Earlier this was impossible, but now my country is changing," he said. "The second event that caught attention was the country's first 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival', and that too held at Dal Lake in Srinagar. Truly, what a special place to host a festival like this." Speaking to Mohsin Ali, who is from Jammu and Kashmir and won a gold medal, he said the youth of the region can bring glory to the country as they have so much potential.

Mr. Modi said love for the Ramayana and Indian culture was now reaching every corner of the world, noting that a 51-foot statue of Lord Ram was unveiled at Mississauga in Canada earlier this month.

A unique exhibition was held in Vladivostok, a very cold region of Russia, this month, in which paintings made by Russian children on different themes of the Ramayana were showcased. "It is indeed heartening to see the growing awareness of Indian culture in different parts of the world," Mr. Modi said.

Nagaland Assembly to discuss influence of 'devil worship'

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Küzholuzo Nienü

The 60-member Nagaland Assembly will hold a special session on Tuesday to discuss the impact of "devil worship" on the youth of the State.

Speaker Sharingain Longkümer scheduled the session after considering a letter from Naga People's Front MLA Küzholuzo Nienü, who requested a discussion on the issue in the Christian-majority State.

According to a notification from Khruohituonuo Rio, the Secretary in charge of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the Speaker admitted Mr. Nienü's "notice on matters of urgent public importance" under relevant rules. The notification said that the subject matter - prohibition of satanic worship in Nagaland - will be taken up in the Assembly after Question Hour on Tuesday.

Mr. Nienü's letter to the Speaker on August 18 read, "... As a Christian State, we need to uphold our religion and be faithful believers and followers of the God Almighty. It is truly shocking to see our younger generation embracing Satanic/Devil worship openly in total disregard to our religion and teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The MLA pointed out that the credo of "Nagaland for Christ" made it imperative for public leaders to stand by the ideals and principles as laid down in the Bible. "Therefore, I urge your good office for a discussion and also for passing a resolution to enact laws prohibiting and preventing Satanic/Devil worship within the territory of Nagaland," he wrote.

'Cults luring youth'

On Sunday, Mr Nienü said that young Naga boys and girls were being lured by a certain group with the promise of ₹1 lakh or a two-wheeler to worship Satan. "These youngsters act very strangely after worshipping the Devil," he said, insisting that their deviation from the Christian way of life had nothing to do with idol worship or other religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.

'Mini-cloudbursts' are on the rise: IMD chief

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The waterlogged premises of the Bade Hanuman Temple by the swollen Ganga in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. PTI

There is no "increasing trend" in cloudbursts – 10 cm of rain in an hour or more over 20-30 square km – over India in recent years and they remain "impossible" to forecast. However, there has been an increase in "mini-cloudbursts" – 5 cm of rain per hour, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director-General, India Meteorological Department (IMD), said at a press briefing on Sunday.

Rainfall in September – the last official monsoon month – is, as in the previous months, expected to be "above normal", or 9% more than the usual average of 16.7 cm, he said. Except the northeastern States and parts of "extreme" southern India, the rest of the country is expected to get above normal rainfall.

The three monsoon months so far have seen "above normal" rainfall, in line with what the IMD forecast in May. Rainfall during June 1 to August 31 was 6% above the 70 cm usual for the three months.

Less rain in the east

Northwest India – comprising Uttarakhand, most parts of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu, Kashmir, Rajasthan, Delhi – got 26% more rainfall than what is typical for the three months.

Central India and the southern peninsula saw 8.6% and 9.3% more rainfall than usual with only the eastern and northeastern India – which receives the most rain as a bloc during the monsoon – getting 17% less than normal.

August rainfall in northern India, at 26.5 cm, was the highest since 2001, said IMD data. Rainfall over the southern peninsula, at 25 cm, was the third highest since 2001.

There were more than 700 instances of heavy rain (20 cm or more in a day) in August 2025, the second highest since 2021 behind the 800-plus in 2024.

Series of disturbances

The extremely active monsoon in northern India – that saw large-scale destruction of lives and property in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Uttarakhand – was due to a confluence of several western disturbances (storms that travel to India from the Mediterranean) and storms from the Bay of Bengal moving northwards leading to several episodes of intense rain, he said.

"This is likely to prevail during September too-...since 1980 we have noticed an increasing trend in the rainfall India receives during September," he told *The Hindu*.

The IMD had a strict definition of a 'cloudburst', 10 cm of rain in an hour or more over 20-30 square km, and while there was rising trend in India overall, 'mini cloudbursts,' – or 5 cm of rain per hour – were on the rise, Mr. Mohapatra said, referring to a 2018 research study by climate researchers at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. In that data set, there were only 28 cloudbursts reported from 1969-2015. IMD officials said they did not have updated data on this aspect since 2015.

"We issue reports of cloudbursts within 24 hours of the event. For instance, there have been cloudbursts reported in Chennai the previous night (Saturday). But often, it is not possible to categorise this in certain regions because of lack of meteorological stations where the cloudbursts occur. Even with satellite imagery, we can warn of intense clouding or heavy rains a few hours before but cannot predict if it will result in a cloudburst," he added, "It is well known that landslides can occur even with 2-5 cm of rainfall."

Home Ministry forms teams to assess damage caused by rain, floods in several States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

IMCT will be visiting Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and J&K to review relief work

The Union Home Ministry has constituted Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) to assess damage in States affected by unprecedented rainfall, floods, and other disasters over the past few days.

An IMCT each has been formed for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the impact of heavy rainfall, flash floods, cloudbursts and landslides, the Ministry said in a statement.

The teams will make on-the-spot assessments of the situation and relief measures undertaken by the State governments. They are scheduled to visit the affected areas early next week. An IMCT and a Multi-Sectoral Team have already visited Himachal Pradesh.

Each IMCT is led by a senior officer of the level of Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry or the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and includes officials from the Ministries of Expenditure, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Jal Shakti, Power, Road Transport and Highways, and Rural Development.

The Home Ministry said it is in touch with senior officers of the affected States and has extended logistic support, including deployment of National Disaster Response Force teams, Army personnel and Air Force helicopters for rescue operations and essential services. As per a decision taken by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in August 2019, IMCTs are formed immediately after severe disasters for on-the-spot assessment without waiting for a State memorandum. Based on their reports, the Centre provides additional financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund as per procedure.

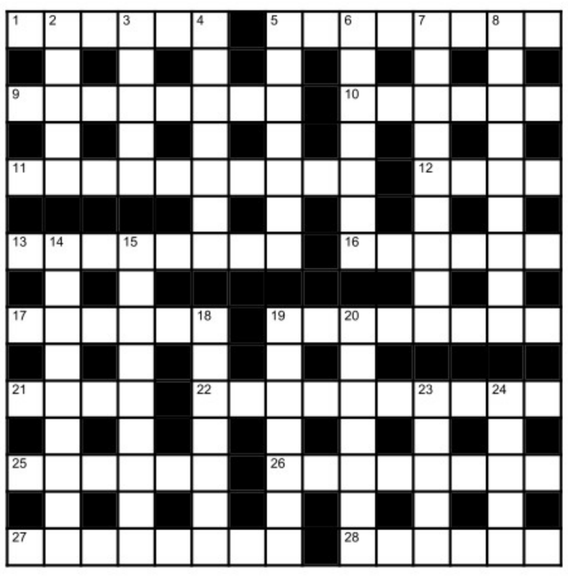
During 2025-26, the Centre has released ₹10,498.80 crore to 24 States for relief assistance, including ₹1,988.91 crore from the NDRF to 12 States and ₹3,274.90 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund to 20 States.

TH CROSSWORD + 14577

(set by Pixie Dust)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Disfigure a bishop's beetle (6)
5 Stop and drink with journalists (8)
9 Established study about a prison (4-4)
10 Picks up missing fellow and impresses (6)
11 Calls attention to Spooner's deception limits (10)
12 Orally mend scoundrel (4)
13 A desire to admit early signs of love and lust from the outset (3,5)
16 What did you say? Policemen are releasing documents of notorious leaders! (6)
17 Emphasise anxiety (6)
19 Heartless CEO last month, rejected and buried formula. Preposterous! (8)
21 Repudiate some blonde nymph (4)
22 Sailor devastated! Soul's basically torn in state monitored fascism (10)
25 Decent hero vacated resort (6)
26 Fantastic grain used repeatedly in farming? (8)
27 Prepare extremely reasonable funeral coach (8)
28 Breathtaking piece of jewellery? (6)

Down

2 A jerk cycling around old animal (5)
3 Gag poor thing, say (5)
4 Mix or rub it in Mexican wrap (7)
5 Construction worker's uninitiated sad song, somehow overwhelmed Henry (7)
6 Exercise before dinner perhaps, sipping some Sangria (5-2)
7 ...and this 'Man o War' for one developed a creased horn? (9)
8 Say Jobs ignoring boundaries, loved Loader (9)
14 Drunk, that man's very mobile - extremely agile (9)
15 Can eye let out gas? (9)
18 Second serve takes time in spread (7)
19 Rascal wears suit in shower (7)
20 Concerned with heat? Car coil's damaged! (7)
23 Chest also holds relics & souvenirs primarily (5)
24 Some beg at station's elevated platform (5)

SUDOKU

3							7	
		2	6	1				
	9	5		4		8		
	4		3					8
1								3
7					2		5	
		8		7		5	3	
				8	6	2		
	2							4

No.SS6628 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	2	6	5	3	4	1	7
3	6	7	2	4	1	9	5	8
5	4	1	8	9	7	2	3	6
2	9	4	3	6	8	1	7	5
1	5	6	4	7	9	3	8	2
7	3	8	5	1	2	6	4	9
4	2	3	9	8	5	7	6	1
8	1	9	7	3	6	5	2	4
6	7	5	1	2	4	8	9	3

FAITH

Manifestations of Sakthi

Abirami Bhattar, who surrendered totally to Goddess Abirami, describes the many hues that the Goddess has in Her various manifestations, said M.A. Manickavelu in a discourse. He says She is *Pingalai*, that is golden hued. She is seen with this colour in a six-petalled lotus in the *Svadishthana* chakra. Goddess Sakthi is known as *Kakini* when She has a golden complexion. Lalitha Sahasranama describes the Goddess who is in *Svadhishthana* chakra as being *pitavarna* (pita- yellow; varna- colour). Those seeking wealth, worship Ambal in this form.

Bhattar speaks next of *Neeli*, the blue-coloured form of the Goddess. Dark blue looks almost like black. Goddess Kali is black and *Neeli* is dark blue, bordering on black. *Neeli* and Kali both mean the same. Bhattar also describes Her as *Seyyaal* – the red-coloured Devi. In Manipuraka chakra, She has this colour and has three faces. The red-coloured Goddess goes by the name of *Lakini*. She is also *Veliyaal* – white hued. When the Goddess appears in a two-petalled lotus in the *Agnya* chakra, She is white complexioned, and has six faces. In this manifestation, She is called *Haakini*. Goddess Saraswathi is also a form of the primordial Sakthi and she is portrayed as white in colour, and Saraswathi is considered the Goddess of knowledge and education. Bhattar says Goddess Sakthi is a green coloured creeper. She is dark green in colour when She appears in a twelve-petalled lotus in *Anahata* chakra. She is two-faced in this form and is called *Ragini*. Bhattar describes Her also as *Malayaal*. This can be taken as a reference to the Sri Chakra Maha Meru, which is of great significance in the Srividya tradition of worship.

Decoding cryptos

Vaishali R. Venkat

Last week, we explored the basics of blockchain, the engine of cryptocurrencies. Now, we move on to the next layer in the chain. Since blocks can be added one after another in the blockchain, the next logical question is who adds blocks and how the blocks are added.

A transaction can be added to a block only after someone verifies it. But who verifies is a million-dollar query. In centralised institutions such as banks or financial institutions, bank officials verify each transaction. But in cryptos, transactions operate across a decentralised network and are verified by participants known as miners or validators, based on the blockchain's consensus mechanism.

Blockchains are decentralised, with no central authority. Therefore, the network requires a method by which all participants reach an agreement on the "truth" of the ledger, that is the validity of the transaction. This is called consensus mechanism and it is via this process the blockchain network decides which transactions are valid and can be added.

In cryptos, there are many such consensus mechanisms. However, the most popular ones are Proof of Work (PoW) and the Proof of Stake (PoS).

In PoW blockchains, the miners compete with one another to solve complex puzzles, using powerful computers called nodes. Mining is like Sudoku but quite a complicated and complex puzzle. Whoever succeeds in the puzzle, earns the reward and adds the new block. The process of mining needs significant computing power. This ensures the transactions are verified, only those valid are added to the block and the blockchain remains secure. In PoS systems, validators are picked based on how many coins they "stake." Staking is like keeping money in a safe. The more you stake, the higher the chance of being selected. Honest behaviour earns a fee or new coins; dishonest actions end up in losing the staked ones. The two mechanisms ensure that fraudulent transactions are prevented and the network is safe and secure. Moreover, they incentivise participants.

What to check

"So, what should you check before investing in cryptocurrency?"

It's not enough to consider merely the PoW or PoS mechanisms. There are other crucial factors to look for. These include network safety and security viz. strong and decentralised network with active nodes which cannot be easily compromised. Next, speed of transaction and fee because these two directly affect the usability of the coin. Next, market reputation, that is, the coin's history, community and development transparency.

Next, whether the coin addresses real-world problems and how it could be adopted. Only coins with practical applications tend to sustain value. Above all, consider the volatility of the coins as crypto prices swing wildly. Considering these aspects, in addition to the manner in which the blocks are verified, validated and added, helps investors take informed decisions and avoid hype-driven projects.

Types of currency

There are many types of cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin is the first and the most famous. Altcoins such as Ethereum and Solana offer smart contracts and real-world applications. Stablecoins such as USDT or USDC are pegged to real assets. Tokens for utility or governance; meme coins, driven by hype and community and a few others aiming at solving real-world problems of finance, supply chains, gaming etc.

For long-term investments, coins that solve real-world problems, or have practical applications and could be easily adopted are generally more valuable than hype-based coins.

Caution: Cryptocurrencies might offer huge potential, but don't lose your hard-earned money to a game of chance. Understand the concepts, do your research, make informed decisions, and invest wisely.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION: SAINATH B.

Why NRIs are choosing India for medical tourism

When people think of medical tourism, they often imagine a trade-off between affordability and quality; India has rewritten the equation by proving one doesn't need to compromise on either

HEALTH ECONOMICS

Siddharth Singhal

Healthcare decisions, perhaps more than any other, show the complex equation of trust, access and value for money. Add to that the factor of geographical distance for NRIs and the decision becomes even more nuanced. For millions of NRIs, this decision is now shaped by the realities of rising healthcare costs abroad and the assurance of timely, high-quality care back home in India.

When people think of medical tourism, they often imagine a trade-off between affordability and quality. India has rewritten the equation by proving one doesn't need to compromise on either.

The numbers speak for themselves. A complex surgery in the U.S. can easily cost more than $1,00,000. The same procedure at a top hospital in India may cost just $10,000 to $20,000.

Also, our data suggests NRIs can save anywhere from 60-90% on major surgeries in India.

With relaxed norms , affordable policies and ease of claims, growth has trickled down to health insurance too. Over the last one year, adoption of health cover among NRIs has risen by more than 150%. Young NRIs under 35 led the way with a 148% rise, while women buyers climbed 125%. Notably,

> Heart bypass surgery costs $5,000-$8,000 in India versus $70,000-$1,50,000 in U.S.; Knee replacement in U.S. costs up to $50,000 versus $4,000-$6,000 in India

60% of NRIs are buying health cover for elderly parents living in India. Here's what makes India the top choice for medical tourism

Value for money

Undeniably, the most important factor driving this adoption is affordability. For instance, a heart bypass surgery costs only $5,000-$8,000 in India compared with $70,000-$1,50,000 in the U.S. Similarly, a knee replacement surgery in the U.S. costs up to $50,000 compared with only $4,000-$6,000 in India. More important, this affordability doesn't come at the cost of quality.

From liver and kidney transplant to dental procedures and other major surgeries, the cost gap is huge. Even routine treatments show similar gaps, with India offering care at less than a third of international prices. Medicines, too, are up to 90% cheaper compared with global markets. So, the financial logic is undeniable. India offers world-class care at a fraction of the price, making it an increasingly compelling choice for NRIs.

Coming to health insurance premiums, in India, they are often 25-40 times

> For NRIs balancing mortgages, kids' education and retirement goals, the difference in cost savings with treatment in India can be life-changing

cheaper than in the U.S. or GCC countries like Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. For NRIs, this means getting comprehensive protection without the financial strain.

Financial ripple effect

What's fascinating is the benefits of medical tourism are no longer restricted only to big cities. In fact, almost half of NRI health insurance claims now come from Tier-3 towns and cities. It is true metros like Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram continue to remain trusted choices. But what is encouraging is smaller hubs such as Thrissur, Kollam, and Thane are quickly gaining ground as well. Access to quality care in these regions has been made possible by better infrastructure and rise of digital platforms.

Savings from choosing treatment in India aren't just figures on a hospital bill. They directly impact a family's financial security. For NRIs already balancing mortgages, children's education and retirement goals, this difference could be life-changing.

Another finding is most claims by NRIs are tied to respiratory diseases, infectious ailments, cancer, and heart conditions. What the aliments have in common is they are not one-time occurrence but recurring health needs demanding long-term planning. By having insurance in India, families of the NRI can plan ahead without draining savings each time a health emergency strikes.

This shift also shows NRIs are becoming more health-conscious. Instead of waiting for a crisis to strike, they're taking charge early and protecting themselves against risks they know could come their way.

Policy pull, digital push

Government initiatives like Heal in India and the growth of digital-first platforms have further simplified the process. NRIs can explore, compare and buy policies remotely. Cashless claims across hospitals have bridged the distance, ensuring seamless access even when NRIs are thousands of miles away. The convenience of digital access, coupled with the affordability of premiums, has turned insurance into a natural extension of the medical tourism story.

India's medical tourism market is on track to cross $13 billion, and that growth opens a clear opportunity for the industry. With the right approach, India can strengthen its place as a global hub where healthcare and financial protection go hand in hand.

(Head, Health Insurance, Policybazaar.com)

Mind your reinvestment risk in govt. bonds

THINKINVESTOR

Direct investment in government bonds do not have market risk; you can hold the bonds till maturity and get the par value regardless of the interest rate at that time

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Many appear to be interested in buying government bonds. You can buy such bonds by placing bids through your brokerage account. The intention to invest in such bonds is not surprising, given these are credit-risk-free. In this article, we discuss the factors you must consider when investing in such bonds.

MAR risk

Picture this. You have lump-sum money, which if invested at 6.5% per annum can help you achieve a 10-year goal. So, you buy 10-year government bond paying 6.50% per annum. The bond pays you interest every half year. The issue is you must reinvest the interest received at 6.50% per annum for the remaining period of the goal. Otherwise, you are unlikely to accumulate the wealth required to achieve the goal. Why?

The required return of 6.5% is a (post-tax) compounded annual return, referred to as minimum acceptable return or MAR.

That means, you must reinvest the interest every year at 6.5% per annum over the life of the goal to accumulate the required wealth. Government bonds do not compound interest income. You must find avenues to reinvestment the interest income. The risk is interest rate could dip in any period through the life of the bond (viz. reinvestment risk). That means you could fail to achieve the goal. Also, it is optimal to match the maturity of the bond with the time horizon for life goal; you may not get the maturity appropriate for life goal at the time you invest.

If you have a 10-year goal, there must be auction of a 10-year bond at the time you invest. This makes investing for, say, 6, 7 or 8-year life goals difficult, as RBI may not auction bonds for such maturities. Note that interest income on government bonds is taxed at your marginal tax rate.

Conclusion

What about funds that invest in government bonds (gilt funds)? Your investment is based on the fund's net asset value (NAV), which is market value of the portfolio divided by the number of units. That means the fund's NAV will decline when bonds held in the portfolio fall in price. Therefore, such investments are exposed to market risk.

Direct investment in government bonds do not have market risk; you can hold the bonds till maturity and get the par value regardless of the interest rate at that time.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.50 onwards	10,996 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	10.10-15.10	10,648-11,921	2,130-2,384	Up to 1.5% (Min. Rs 1,000; Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.60 onwards	10,772 onwards	2,154 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.10	10,722-12,724	2,144-2,545	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	9.99-22.00	10,621-13,809	2,124-2,762	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	10.15 onwards	10,660 onwards	2,132 onwards	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-12.90	10,587-11,351	2,117-2,270	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.45	10,673-11,492	2,135-2,298	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	10.10-11.90	10,648-11,097	2,130-2,219	Up to 1%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5%

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.85-9.70	10,102 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.60	10,174 - 11,021	Up to Rs. 2,000
Bank of India	7.85-12.15	10,102 - 11,160	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	7.60-10.25	10,043 - 10,685	0.50% (Rs 5,000)
State Bank of India	8.90-9.90	10,355 - 10,599	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	8.30-9.15	10,210 - 10,416	Rs 2,500 (Zero processing fee till 30.09.2025)
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	Up to 0.25% of loan (max. up to Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs. 3,500 - Rs. 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.95-11.64	10,367 - 11,031	Up to 0.60% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.00 onwards	10,624 onwards	Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1,000
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	10,102 - 10,489	0.50% of loan amount (Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 20,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing home loan borrowers, existing customers with at least 6 months relationship with bank.
**Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on August 27 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

BARCELONA

Aid flotilla with Greta Thunberg sets sail from Spain for Gaza Strip

REUTERS

A flotilla carrying humanitarian aid and activists, including Greta Thunberg, left Barcelona on Sunday to "break the illegal siege of Gaza". The vessels set off from the Spanish city to "open a humanitarian corridor and end the genocide of the Palestinian people", said the Global Sumud Flotilla. AFP

SANAA

Houthis raid offices of UNICEF, WFP in Yemen, detain employee

REUTERS

The Iran-backed Houthis on Sunday raided the offices of the World Food Programme, the United Nations' food agency, and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in Sanaa, detaining at least one UN employee. Contacts with several other WFP and UNICEF staffers have been lost, officials said. AP

KHARTOUM

Seven dead, 71 injured as Sudan's paramilitary group shells El-Fasher

AFP

Shelling by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces killed at least seven and wounded 71 others in El-Fasher on Sunday, as the paramilitary group launched its fiercest offensive yet on the city. El-Fasher has become the most violent front line in the war between the Sudanese Army and the RSF, which erupted in April 2023. AFP

NUUK

France condemns outside interference in Greenland

AFP

France considers outside interference in Greenland "unacceptable", Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Sunday, on a visit to the autonomous Danish territory. U.S. President Donald Trump has said he wants to take control of Greenland, and media reported three Americans conducting influence operations on the Arctic island. AFP

Israel kills Hamas spokesperson; aid seekers among 43 killed in Gaza City

Israel has blamed Abu Obeida for the release of videos showing hostages as well as footage of the Hamas-led attack that sparked the war; Security Cabinet convenes to discuss the expanding offensive in some of Gaza's most populated areas

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

The Israeli military announced on Sunday that it killed a longtime spokesperson for Hamas' armed wing, as the country's Security Cabinet met to discuss the expanding offensive in some of Gaza 's most populated areas.

There were no plans to discuss negotiations for a ceasefire at the meeting, according to an official.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz identified the spokesperson as Abu Obeida, the *nom de guerre* for the official who represented Hamas' Qassam Brigades. He was killed over the weekend. Hamas has not commented on the claim.

New setback: While Israel claims to have killed Abu Obeida during the weekend, Hamas is yet to comment on the claim. REUTERS

Obeida's last statement was issued on Friday as Israel began the initial stages of the new offensive and declared Gaza City a combat zone. His statement said the militants would do their best to protect living hostages but warned that they would be in areas of fighting. He said the remains of dead hostages would "disappear forever."

Israel's military said the spokesperson, whom it identified as Hudahaifa Kahlout, had been behind the release of videos showing hostages as well as footage of the Hamas-led attack that sparked the war.

At least 43 Palestinians were killed since Saturday, most of them in Gaza City, according to local hospitals. Shifa Hospital, the territory's largest, said 29 bodies were brought to its morgue, including 10 people killed while seeking aid and others struck across the city.

"Where are the resistance fighters that (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu claims he is bombing? Does he consider stones resistance fighters?" said a relative of one of the dead at Shifa Hospital.

Hospital officials reported 11 other fatalities from strikes and gunfire. Al-Awda Hospital said seven of them were civilians trying to reach aid.

Witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire on crowds in the Netzarim Corridor, an Israeli military zone that bisects Gaza.

"We were trying to get food, but we were met with the occupation's bullets," said Ragheb Abu Lebda, who saw at least three people bleeding from gunshot wounds. "It's a death trap."

Indonesia cuts MPs' perks in an attempt to quell protests

Agence France-Presse
JAKARTA

Indonesia cut financial perks for lawmakers on Sunday, after at least five persons were killed in protests against economic hardship that have escalated into anger against police.

Southeast Asia's biggest economy was rocked by protests in major cities in recent days after footage spread of a motorcycle taxi driver being run over by a police vehicle at a rally against lucrative perks for lawmakers.

"The parliament leadership conveyed that they would revoke several policies, including the amount of allowance for lawmakers, and a moratorium on overseas visits," President Prabowo Subianto said, without specifying which allowance he was referring to.

Standing tall: A protester throws a rock at the police during a protest outside parliament in Jakarta on Sunday. AP

He said protests should take place peacefully and if people destroyed public facilities or looted private homes "the state must step in to protect its citizens".

Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin later said military and police would take "firm action" against "rioters and looters" who entered private homes or state institutions.

Their comments came after the house of Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati was looted overnight.

Anger has spread to lawmakers and several have reportedly had their houses ransacked in recent days.

Xi meets Muizzu, calls for stronger China-Maldives ties

Press Trust of India
TIANJIN

Chinese President Xi Jinping met Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu here on Sunday and called for deepening bilateral ties with effective implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held here on Sunday.

The Maldives is a Dialogue Partner of the 10-member SCO bloc.

Mr. Xi told Mr. Muizzu that the two countries have achieved positive progress in advancing Belt and Road cooperation, and China will continue to deepen practical cooperation with the Maldives to ensure the effective implementation of the China-Maldives FTA. Both countries should advance cooperation in areas including fisheries, marine scientific research, environmental protection, as well as disaster prevention and reduction, he said.

Mutual interests: Mohamed Muizzu, second left, and Xi Jinping, third right, attend a bilateral meeting in Tianjin on Sunday. AP

For his part, Mr. Muizzu said the Maldives is willing to work with China to expand cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, housing construction and tourism, and to strengthen coordination and collaboration within multilateral mechanisms, including the SCO.

This is Mr. Muizzu's second visit to China. He visited China in January last year, soon after his election campaign, during which he pushed an 'India Out' agenda calling for the withdrawal of Indian personnel operating helicopter medical services and Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft.

'U.S. working on trade deals despite new court ruling'

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration is continuing talks with its trading partners despite a U.S. appeals court ruling that most of President Donald Trump's tariffs are illegal, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said on Sunday.

"Our trading partners, they continue to work very closely with us on negotiations," he said in an interview on *Fox News*' *Fox & Friends* programme. "People are moving forward with their deals, regardless of what this court may say in the interim."

Mr. Greer did not say which countries the United States was still in talks with, but said he had spoken with one Trade Minister on Saturday morning.

Ukraine vows to retaliate after Russia strikes power facilities, affecting 60,000

Reuters
KYIV

Russian drone attacks on power facilities in northern and southern Ukraine overnight left nearly 60,000 customers without electricity, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowing to retaliate by ordering more strikes deep inside Russia.

Three-and-a-half years into the war, Russia and Ukraine have both intensified air strikes in recent weeks. Russia has targeted Ukraine's energy and transport systems, while Ukraine has responded by attacking Russian oil refineries and pipelines.

Taking stock: Residents on Sunday stand in front of a residential building damaged three days ago in a Russian attack in Kyiv. AFP

"We will continue our active operations in exactly the way needed for Ukraine's defence. The forces and resources are prepared. New deep strikes have also been planned," Mr. Zelenskyy said on X.

Ukraine's largest private energy company, DTEK, said Russian drones had attacked four energy facilities in the Odesa region during the night, and local authorities reported that 29,000 people were left without electricity early on Sunday.

Russian drones also targeted Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region early on Sunday, damaging energy infrastructure and leaving 30,000 households without electricity.

The Ukrainian military said Russia had attacked Ukraine with 142 drones overnight and its air defence forces managed to shoot down 126 of them.

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STAYING POSITIVE

Parag happy with the game time in Duleep Trophy fixture

ALLEN EGENUSE

Since the IPL, I haven't really played any cricket. This (Duleep Trophy quarterfinal against North Zone) was a good outing. Rolled my arm for a few overs, batted for a while. I could have converted it into a bigger score, but I'm happy. The arm also feels much better — East Zone captain Riyan Parag

ENDING A ROW

Ostapenko apologises for 'no education' jibe at Townsend

GETTY IMAGES

Jelena Ostapenko issued an apology for the tirade that triggered racial allegations. Ostapenko accused Taylor Townsend of having "no education" and "no class." "I wanted to apologise for some of the things I said. English is not my native language, so when I said education, I meant tennis etiquette," she wrote on Instagram.

PILING IT ON

Taylor is third Zimbabwe batter to score 10,000 runs in intl. cricket

FILE PHOTO

Brendan Taylor became the third Zimbabwe player to reach the 10,000-mark in international cricket. Taylor achieved the milestone when he made 20 in the second ODI against Sri Lanka at Harare. **The scores:** Zimbabwe 277/7 in 50 overs (Curran 79, Raza 59 n.o.) lost to Sri Lanka 278/5 in 49.3 overs (Nissanka 122, Asalanka 71).

THRILLER

U Mumba mounts impressive fightback to pip Thalaivas

V. RAJU

U Mumba defeated Tamil Thalaivas 36-33 in a PKL match in Visakhapatnam. A late fightback from Ajit Chouhan and Anil Mohan flipped the script as U Mumba, which trailed by nine points at one point, bounced back to win. In the other match, Bengal Warriorz stunned defending champion Haryana Steelers 54-44.

Battling it out: Satwik and Chirag lost a thriller to Chen and Liu. AP

Satwik-Chirag pair finishes with bronze

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Top Indian pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty signed off with a bronze medal after going down fighting to China's 11th seeds Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the men's doubles semifinals of the World Championships here.

A day after assuring India of a medal, the former world No. 1 duo's bid to become the first Indian men's doubles pair to reach the final of the World championships fell short as they lost 19-21, 21-18, 12-21 in a 67-minute battle on Saturday.

This is the pair's second medal at the World championships, having won a bronze in 2022.

"We didn't get really any rhythm. We didn't start off that well. We gave away easy points (in the third game).

"We should have been a bit smarter. But, credit to them.

"They served quite well, right from the start of the third game," said Chirag.

The results: Finals:
Men: Singles: Shi Yuqi (Chn) bt Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) 19-21, 21-10, 21-18.
Women: Singles: Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Chen Yufei (Chna) 21-9, 21-13. **Doubles:** Tan Ning & Liu Shengshu (Chn) bt Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) 21-14, 20-22, 21-17.
Mixed doubles: Chen Tang Jie & Toh Ee Wei (Mas) bt Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin (Chn) 21-15, 21-14.

Szoboszlai is the hero for Liverpool

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LIVERPOOL

Dominik Szoboszlai's stunning free-kick gave Liverpool first blood against Arsenal with a 1-0 win in Sunday's battle between the Premier League title favourites.

A tense tussle at Anfield looked set to end in a stalemate until the Hungarian's 83rd-minute strike ensured the defending champion remains the only side with a perfect record from the opening three games.

Manchester City blew the lead in a shock 2-1 defeat at Brighton.

In Sunday's other early game, West Ham eased the pressure on boss Graham Potter with a 3-0 win against Nottingham Forest.

Bayern Munich survived a late Augsburg rally on Saturday in Bundesliga, holding on for a 3-2 away win in Harry Kane's 100th match for the club.

Real Madrid claimed a third straight LaLiga victory with a 2-1 triumph over Real Mallorca on Saturday.

Atletico Madrid was held 1-1 at Alaves, leaving it without a win in its first three games.

Important results: Premier League: Liverpool 1 (Szoboszlai 83) bt Arsenal 0; Brighton 2 (Milner 67-pen, Gruda 89) bt Manchester City 1 (Haaland 34); Nottingham Forest 0 lost to West Ham 3 (Bowen 84, Paqueta 88-pen, Wilson 90+1).
LaLiga: Girona 0 lost to Sevilla 2 (Gonzalez 30, Romero 55); Real Madrid 2 (Guler 37, Vinicius 38) bt Mallorca 1 (Muriqi 17).
Serie A: Pisa 0 lost to Roma 1 (Soule 55).
Bundesliga: Augsburg 2 (Jakic 53, Komur 76) lost to Bayern Munich 3 (Gnabry 28, Diaz 45+4, Olise 48).

Winning moment: Szoboszlai's 83rd minute strike settled the issue for Liverpool REUTERS

Harmanpreet takes India past Japan and into the Super 4s

The home team dominates the first half before scrambling to stay ahead in the second

ASIA CUP

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Another day, another narrow win for the Indian men's hockey team in the Asia Cup here, this time 3-2 against Japan. Sunday's performance, barring the result, was as far from India's previous outing as possible and yet, there were a lot of the same concerns as before even as the host assured itself of a spot in the Super 4s.

It was a game of two halves, India all over the opposition in the first and scrambling to stay ahead in the second. The defence remains a concern, conceding nine penalty corners and a tad slow in getting into positions, as does the lack of sharpness and accuracy of the attack.

Making it count: Harmanpreet scores his second goal past the Japanese goalkeeper. R.V. MOORTHY

Coming close

The start was brisk and the Indian strikers busy, coming close to score twice in as many opening minutes, before Mandeep Singh put one past the Japanese goalkeeper in the fourth minute, turning and tumbling as he shot past a couple of defenders.

A minute later, four back-to-back PCs finally resulted in Harmanpreet Singh's scorching grounder to make it 2-0.

Barring two PCs in the 13th minute, the game was largely restricted to the Japanese half. The Indian defence was stationed at the half line with the rest of the players prowling in search of another goal.

The second quarter was more of the same. A long Japanese shot bisecting the circle missed the goal by inches.

Dilpreet and Abhishek continued to miss scoring chances. Four consecutive PCs to Japan were saved by goalkeeper Suraj Karkera and finally cleared by a diving Vivek.

Post break, however, Japan upped the pressure and saw Kosei Kawabe slamming in from the top of the circle past both Krishan Pathak and Jugraj Singh to reduce the margin in the 37th minute.

India, meanwhile, continued to be erratic. Seconds before the end of the third quarter, India got the last of its six PCs and Harmanpreet struck.

But Abhishek and Sukhjeet continued to miss their chances and in the 59th minute, Kawabe made it 3-2 but there wasn't enough time for Japan to find an equaliser.

China won 13-1 in the other Pool-A game, the huge scoreline also helping it gain the edge ahead of its final group match against Japan on Monday.

The Chinese need only a draw to progress by virtue of better goal difference with the teams tied on points.

The results: Pool-A: India 3 (Mandeep Singh 4, Harmanpreet Singh 5, 45) bt Japan 2 (Kosei Kawabe 38, 59); China 13 (Shihao Du 10, 53, Qijun Chen 13, Changliang Lin 15, 39, Benhai Chen 29, 56, Yuanlin Lu 31, 42, 44, Jiesheng Gao 33, Xiaolong Guo 41, 58) bt Kazakhstan 1 (Agymtay Duisengazy 2).

Keeping the dream alive: Pegula is chasing her maiden Slam. AP

Pegula eases past Li, enters quarterfinals

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Jessica Pegula routed compatriot Ann Li in straight sets to march into the quarterfinals of the US Open on Sunday.

American fourth seed Pegula cruised into the last eight with a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

Jannik Sinner kept his title defence on track on Saturday as Iga Swiatek struggled through to the last 16.

Sinner rallied to beat Canadian 27th seed Denis Shapovalov 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Zverev falls

Third seed Alexander Zverev fell to his earliest US Open exit in seven years at the hands of Felix Auger-Aliassime. Canada's Auger-Aliassime outduelled Zverev 4-6, 7-6(7), 6-4, 6-4.

Swiatek showed great resolve to dig herself out of trouble against 29th seed Anna Kalinskaya before eventually winning 7-6(2), 6-4. Swiatek, the 2022 US Open champion, was far from her best but scrambled through to set up a last-16 meeting with Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Alexandrova has never made it past the fourth round at a Grand Slam but destroyed Laura Siegemund 6-0, 6-1.

The results (fourth round):
Women: 4-Pegula (USA) bt Li (USA) 6-1, 6-2.
Third round:
On Saturday: 27-Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Parry (Fra) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; 23-Osaka (Jpn) bt 15-Kasatkina (Aus) 6-0, 4-6, 6-3; 8-Anisimova (USA) bt Cristian (Rou) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; 18-Haddad Maia (Bra) bt Sakkari (Gre) 6-1, 6-2.
Men: 23-Bublik (Kaz) bt 14-Paul (USA) 7-6(5), 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-1; 15-Rublev bt Wong (HKG) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; Riedi (Sui) bt Majchrzak (Pol) 5-3 (retd.); 8-de Minaur (Aus) bt Altmaier (Ger) 6-7(7), 6-3, 6-4, 2-0 (retd.).
Doubles: Men (first round): 14-Yuki & Venus (Nzl) bt Giron & Tien (USA) 6-0, 6-3; 2-Pavic (Cro) & Arevalo (ESA) bt Kadhe & Hidalgo (Ecu) 5-7, 7-6(4), 6-4.

North to meet South after drab draw against East

DULEEP TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

As green, sprawling and state-of-the-art the BCCI's new Centre of Excellence is, it is not so full of life.

The 40-acre campus is situated nearly 40 kilometres away from the city centre, is in the middle of an industrial cluster and is fortified to the extent that every little movement, including that of the media personnel, is tailed.

The last day's play in the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal between North Zone and East on Sunday mimicked this gloomy setting as the contest petered out to a drab draw.

North, having secured a first-innings lead of 175 runs, progressed to the semifinals, where it will take on South Zone from Thursday. The other last-four clash will be between West and Central.

North started the final day a massive 563 runs in the green but chose to bat on. Skipper Ankit Kumar, from an overnight 168, missed out on a double-century (198, 321b, 19x4, 1x6) after being caught at mid-on trying a pull off pacer Mukhtar Hussain.

Badoni... in full flow. ALLEN EGENUSE

But Delhi batter Ayush Badoni was not to be denied, notching up his second First Class double-hundred (204 n.o., 223b, 13x4, 3x6).

However, so dull were the proceedings that the 25-year-old did not even celebrate his ton, which he brought up with a six straight down the ground and a sharp single.

It didn't help that East Zone was two bowlers short – Mukesh Kumar was injured and Mohammed Shami, according to captain Riyan Parag, had hurt his toe.

The consequence was that part-timers Parag and Utkarsh Singh bowled 60 second-innings overs and conceded 269 runs as North declared at 684 for four, half an hour before tea, to bring the curtains down.

"We could have gone for an [outright] result, but we didn't try because we had the first-innings lead," Ankit said after the match.

The scores: North 405 in 93.2 overs & 658/4 decl. in 146.2 overs (Ankit Kumar 198, Yash Dhull 133, Ayush Badoni 204 n.o., Nishant Sindhu 68) drew with East 230 in 56.1 overs; **PoM:** Auqib Nabi. Central 532/4 decl. in 102 overs & 331/7 decl. in 80.3 overs drew with North East 185 in 69.3 overs & 200/6 in 58 overs (Jehu Anderson 64, Rongsen Jonathan 60); **PoM:** Danish Malewar.

Apathy of organisers towards fans is hurting the sport

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The popularity of cricket is both a boon and a bane. Boon because it has brought laurels to the country, played a big part in creating a sporting culture and generated employment by the truckloads. Bane, for it takes for granted the very fans whose interest has nurtured the sport.

The 2025-26 Duleep Trophy, which began on Thursday at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence near here, is a classic example of the latter. Neither was the domestic cricket season-opener broadcast on television, nor were supporters allowed to watch some of India's best cricketers live. A handful who landed at the venue had to stand tall and glance through the barbed wire fence.

This is the latest example of a disturbing new trend of making many domestic matches lifeless, closed-door affairs. Last season, when a dozen people arrived at the Alur Grounds here to catch a glimpse of India cricketer Sanju Samson playing for Kerala against Karnataka, they were turned away.

Hardcore supporters: Fans watch the North-East Duleep game from outside through barbed wires. ALLEN EGENUSE

The reason provided, in hushed tones of course, is that allowing fans where there are no designated stands is a security risk. But surely a rich sport like cricket has the wherewithal to make adequate arrangements and not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Palash Chauhan, a software engineer, was eager to take his 10-year-old son to watch the Duleep Trophy during the weekend, but was left disappointed.

"My son wants to be a cricketer and watching live matches is important for his development. But not just international games, even domestic cricket is now out of bounds," he told *The Hindu*. "Children also spend too much time in front of screens. If I cannot take them for live matches or to play, is it good?"

The authorities' indifference seemingly extends to international cricket as well – ticket sales for the Women's World Cup in India and Sri Lanka beginning on September 30 are yet to commence.

In 2023, an India-Australia Test at Dharamshala was moved at the last minute, leading to a logistical nightmare. Cricket is a model sport in India in many ways. Shouldn't it be doing better fan engagement?

INBRIEF

India crowned SAFF under-17 women's football champion

India was on Sunday crowned champion of the SAFF under-17 women's football championship, despite suffering a 3-4 loss to Bangladesh in its last league match in Thimpu on Sunday. This was India's lone defeat in the tournament that was played among four countries in a double round-robin format. India topped the table with 15 points after six matches and thus was declared winner. It had secured the title even before Sunday's match after winning five on the trot.

Garnacho leaves Manchester United for Chelsea

Chelsea signed Argentina international Alejandro Garnacho from Manchester United for a reported £40 million, adding more competition for the two winger spots. The 21-year-old Garnacho left United after falling out of favour with manager Ruben Amorim at the end of last season. His last game for the club was the 1-0 loss to Tottenham in the Europa League final, when he was a second-half substitute.

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Asia Cup, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m., 3.30, 5.30 & India vs Kazakhstan, 7.30 p.m.
Bangladesh vs Netherlands: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
US Open: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.
T20 tri-series: UAE vs Afghanistan, FanCode, 8.30 p.m.

Vimal, Pradosh make it TNCA President's XI's day

The opener's ton and the skipper's 91 help the team reach 265 for three against Jammu & Kashmir in the semifinal; both dominate the spinners during their 189-run stand for the second wicket

BUCHI BABU

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Opener and left-hander R. Vimal Khumar struck 112 (215b, 12x4, 1x6) and added 189 runs for the second wicket with skipper Pradosh Ranjan Paul (91, 182b, 10x4)) as TNCA President's XI, opting to bat, reached 265 for three against Jammu & Kashmir on day one of the All India Buchi Babu tournament semifinal at the CSK High Performance Centre here on Sunday.

It was Vimal's second century and Pradosh's fourth half-century of the tournament.

Their batting prowess versus spin was on display on a day when four spinners bowled. The striking aspect of Vimal's batting was his use of feet to the spinners.

He charged at off-spinner Kawalpreet Singh to loft a full toss for four to deep midwicket, at left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq to loft a four straight down the ground and a six to cow corner, and at left-arm spinner Vanshaj Sharma for an inside-out four to the cover boundary.

When pacer Sunil Kumar bowled it short, he pulled it behind square for a four, and later delightfully drove him straight for a four again.

The highlight of Pradosh's innings was his spectacular back foot drive off Kawalpreet and Mushtaq for a four each to the extra cover boundary.

He also swept to the square leg boundary for back-to-back fours off Vanshaj.

Technique on point: Highlight of Vimal Khumar's batting was his use of feet to the spinners. R. RAGU

The scores (semifinals, day one): TNCA President's XI 265/3 in 90 overs (R. Vimal Khumar 112, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 91) vs Jammu & Kashmir.

Toss: TNCA President's XI.

At IC-Guru Nanak Ground: Hyderabad 225 in 80 overs (Varun Goud 41) vs Haryana 14/0 in 8 overs.

Toss: Hyderabad.

Rarity: India will have four javelin throwers in the team led by two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj. REUTERS

Neeraj to lead Indian squad at the Worlds

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Defending champion and double Olympics medallist Neeraj Chopra will lead a four-man team of javelin throwers in the 19-member Indian squad, including five women, at the World athletics championships in Tokyo from September 13 to 21.

Besides Neeraj, who qualified through a wild-card as the defending champion, Asian championships silver medallist Sachin Yadav, Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav will complete the strong line-up of Indian men spear hurlers.

Woman javelin thrower Annu Rani, who will compete in her fifth Worlds, remains a constant.

Two women, Parul Chaudhary and Ankita Dhyani, will represent the country in the 3000m steeplechase.

Three - including Gulveer Singh (5000m), who has got an invitation for the 10000m race, triple jumper Praveen Chithravel and Parul - have qualified by attaining the entry standards, while others have made the cut through 'Road to Tokyo' rankings.

"We will organise a pre-competition training camp in Tokyo from September 4 to 9," said chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair, adding that Gulveer and Neeraj would join on September 4 and 5 respectively.

The squad: Men: 200m: Animesh Kujur; **5000m and 10000m:** Gulveer Singh; **110m hurdles:** Tejas Shirshe; **20km walk:** Servin Sebastian; **35km race walk:** Ram Baboo and Sandeep Kumar; **Long jump:** M. Sreeshankar; **Triple jump:** Praveen Chithravel, Abdulla Aboobacker; **High jump**: Sarvesh Kushare; **Javelin:** Neeraj Chopra, Sachin Yadav, Yashvir Singh, Rohit Yadav.
Women: 800m and 1500m: Pooja; **3000m steeplechase:** Parul Chaudhary, Ankita Dhyani; **35km race walk:** Priyanka; **Javelin:** Annu Rani.

Piastri wins Dutch GP, widens the margin as Norris crashes out

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
ZANDVOORT

Oscar Piastri won the Dutch Grand Prix to take a mighty 34 point lead in the Formula One championship on Sunday as McLaren teammate and title rival Lando Norris saw his hopes go up in smoke.

On a day of drama, with both Ferrari drivers crashing out in separate incidents, McLaren had been heading for a record-equalling fifth successive one-two win until Norris suffered late despair.

After saying he could smell smoke in the cockpit, Norris slowed and retired from second place on lap 65 of 72 with visible evidence coming out of the back of his stricken car.

Home hero Max Verstappen finished second for Red Bull with Racing Bulls' French rookie Isack Hadjar taking his first Formula One podium in third place and punching the air in delight.

The results: 1. Piastri (McLaren) 1h:38m:29.8491s, 2. Verstappen (Red Bull) +1.271s, 3. Hadjar (Racing Bull) 3.233, 4. Russell (Mercedes) 5.654, 5. Albon (Williams) 6.327, 6. Bearman (Haas) 9.044, 7. Stroll (Aston Martin) 9.497; 8. Alonso (Aston Martin) 11.709, 9. Tsunoda (Red Bull) 13.597, 10. Ocon (Haas) 14.063, 11. Colapinto (Alpine) 14.511, 12. Lawson (Racing Bulls) 17.063, 13. Sainz (Williams) 17.376, 14. Hulkenberg (Sauber) 19.725, 15. Bortoleto (Sauber) 21.565, 16. Antonelli (Mercedes) 22.029, 17. Gasly (Alpine) 23.629.

DNF: Norris (McLaren), Leclerc (Ferrari), Hamilton (Ferrari).

Standings:

Drivers: 1. Piastri 309, 2. Norris 275, 3. Verstappen 205, 4. Russell 184, 5. Leclerc 151.
Constructors: 1. McLaren 584, 2. Ferrari 260, 3. Mercedes 248, 4. Red Bull 214, 5. Williams 80.

Lights to flag
THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 72-LAP RACE AT ZANDVOORT
1 Piastri recorded a Grand Chelem - pole position, fastest lap and a race win while leading every lap - for the first time in his career
1 Hadjar made it to the podium for the first time in F1
4 Verstappen became the fourth driver – after Clark, Lauda and Stewart – to register five podiums at Zandvoort
5 Hadjar (20y 11m 3d) became the fifth youngest, and the youngest Frenchman, to finish on the podium
6 Bearman registered his career-best result
10 Ferrari was the 10th and final team this season to record a Did Not Finish (DNF)
15 Hamilton earned the dubious distinction of most races without a podium finish for Ferrari, going past Capelli
33 Piastri matched the third-longest scoring streak in F1, set by Hamilton between the 2016 Japanese GP and 2018 French GP
43 The Australian equalled Verstappen for the second-longest finishing streak in F1

Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Replacement for withdrawn teams soon in HIL: Tirkey

Saikat Chakraborty
RAJGIR

Hockey India (HI) president Dilip Tirkey on Sunday confirmed that Team Gonasika and Odisha Warriors have withdrawn from the Hockey India League (HIL) men's and women's tournaments, respectively.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Asia Cup here, Tirkey said, "Team Gonasika will not be taking in further part in HIL. There is a personal issue with their owner, and that's why they withdrew."

A replacement team will be announced soon for Team Gonasika in next year's eight-team competition, set to begin in January.

Meanwhile, Odisha Warriors, winners of the inaugural women's tournament, have also pulled out. Tirkey confirmed that all pending player payments have been cleared.

AFI hopes for better show in next year's CWG and Asian Games

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

The Athletics Federation of India is banking on structural changes to hope that the country's athletes would return better results in Commonwealth Games and Asian Games next year.

"We are doing a lot of new things. We are absolutely confident that we will do far better at the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games than we did the last time...in terms of individual performances, timings, records, as well as the number of medals. We keep building blocks one by one. We believe that small improvements are the best improvements," said AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla on Sunday.

The AFI think-tank is contemplating whether to let athletes go step-by-step to bigger events.

"Whether the World championships is somewhere we want to expose everybody or bring them through Asian championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games... anybody who qualifies like (getting) 50th out of 50 or 56th out of 56th (rankings), then it's quite demoralising because if you're the last person to qualify, then you'll probably be among the last few to finish. That could be a big hit to your confidence for the future.

"A very strong internal discussion is going on whether we should only let those guys who qualify go, or maybe we keep a qualifying standard at 50 per cent of the rankings."

Sumariwalla pointed out that old-fashioned coaches used to "under-train" and "save" athletes, including quarter-milers who needed to run several races but who eventually turned out to be "one race athletes," leading to "load issue."

Aanya & Angel pair clinches doubles title

Press Trust of India
PUNE

The Indian pair of Aanya Bisht and Angel Punera clinched the girls' doubles title with a 21-23, 21-12, 21-17 upset win over the Japanese duo Aoi Banno and Yuzu Ueno at the Yonex Sunrise India Junior International Grand Prix badminton here on Sunday.

There was further joy for India in mixed doubles as Vansh Dev and Shravani Walekar outplayed C. Lalramsanga and Taarini Suri 21-12, 21-13 to lift the crown.

Japan's Kazuma Kawano bagged both the boys' singles and doubles titles. The girls' crown also was won by Yuzuno Watanabe

High Heels tipped to take the honours in the feature

RACING

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old filly High Heels, who ran second in her last outing, should redeem herself in the Asaf Jah VII Memorial Cup (Div. I), the main event of Monday's (Sept. 1) races.

1 NICE FELLA PLATE (1,400m), Maiden, 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), no whip, 1.55 p.m.: 1. See My Attitude (5) Deepak 60, 2. Eminency (1) Sonu K 59.5, 3. Dream To Fly (8) G. Naresh 56, 4. N R I Range (4) Santosh Raj 56, 5. Peanut (3) Mukesh 55.5, 6. Sunny Day (6) P. Ajeeth K 54.5, 7. Opera Queen (2) Kuldeep Sr. 54 and 8. Una Paloma Blanca (7) Surya Prakash 51.
1. N R I RANGE,
2. DREAM TO FLY,
3. SUNNY DAY

2 MOUNT PLEASANT PLATE (1,800m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only. 2.30: 1. Andre (3) Trevor 56, 2. Ceremonial (1) Antony Raj 56, 3. Real Thalaivaa (2) Mohit 56, 4. La Fleuriere (6) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 5. Mrs. Brando (4) I. Chisty 54.5, 6. Sanaya (7) Vivek G 54.5 and 7. Screenshot (5) B. Nikhil 54.5.
1. ANDRE,
2. CEREMONIAL,
3. REAL THALAIVAA

3 ASAF JAH VII MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.05: 1. Kalki (2) Trevor 60, 2. Malibu (8) Uday Kiran 58.5, 3. Exclusive Black (6) I. Chisty 58, 4. Tiger Ruby (4) Surya Prakash 55.5, 5. Park Lane (5) B. Nikhil 55, 6. Sopranos (3) P. Sai K 55, 7. Winning Attitude (1) Afroz K 55 and 8. Rolls Royce (7) Abhay Singh 53.5.
1. KALKI,
2. EXCLUSIVE BLACK,
3. ROLLS ROYCE

4 FATEH MAIDAN CLUB CUP (DIV. I) (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.40: 1. Gold Giver (3) Akshay K 60.5, 2. Sargent (2) H.M. Akshay 60, 3. Sucker Punch (7) Deepak 59, 4. N R I Triple Power (1) Mukesh K 58, 5. Anemoi (9) Surya Prakash 56, 6. Alpine Girl (5) Shivansh 55, 7. Sadiya (4) Kuldeep Jr. 51.5, 8. The Purpose (6) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 9. Muaser (8) G. Naresh 50.
1. N R I TRIPLE POWER,
2. GOLD GIVER,
3. SARGENT

5 ASAF JAH VII MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. High Heels (5) Sonu K 60, 2. High Reward (4) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 3. Shadow Fax (3) Mukesh K 57, 4. Hurricane Wave (6) Afroz K 54, 5. Clefairy (1) A.A. Vikrant 53.5, 6. Blissful (2) Md. Ekram 53, 7. Knotty Senorita (7) P. Sai K 53, 8. Crimson Flame (9) Akshay K 52.5 and 9. Windsor (8) Uday Kiran 50.
1. HIGH HEELS,
2. SHADOW FAX,
3. KNOTTY SENORITA

6 FATEH MAIDAN CLUB CUP (DIV. II) (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.50: 1. Bhairava (6) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Perfect Light (1) B.R. Kumar 59, 3. Das (5) H.M. Akshay 58, 4. Alcahol Free (4) Rafique Sk. 56, 5. Path Of Peace (8) Surya Prakash 55.5, 6. Caraxes (3) Uday Kiran 55, 7. Desert Sultan (2) Gaurav 52 and 8. Exponent (7) Abhay Singh 51.
1. BHAIRAVA,
2. DESERT SULTAN,
3. PERFECT LIGHT
Day's Best: **HIGH HEELS**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: All races.

Gachchhatu lives up to the billing in main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer Neelesh Rawal's filly Gachchhatu, piloted by Neeraj Rawal, won the Coromandel Gromor Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes, the main attraction of Sunday's (Aug. 31) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy, Mr. N. Shyam Sunder & Mr. D.N. Kempegowda.

Neeraj confidently kept his mount in the fourth position till the bend and as the field entered the home stretch, this filly by Sanus Par Aquam out of Senor Bella easily surged ahead to win comfortably.

1. MAHABUBABAD PLATE (1,100M): QUICK BAY FOX (Akshay Kumar) 1, Divine Faith (B.R. Kumar) 2, Faizah (Antony Raj) 3 and Golden Bourbon (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 1-1/2, 2 and 3-1/4. 1m, 8.84s. ₹44 (w), 10, 10 and 40 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 100, SHW: 13 and 10, FP: 143, Q: 43, Tanala: 518. Favourite: Divine Faith. Owner: Mr. H.S. Srikanth. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

2. BELAGER PLATE (1,600M): SHUBHRAK (Deepak Singh) 1, Politics (G. Naresh) 2, Amboseli (H.M. Akshay) 3 and Deccan Ranger (B. Nikhil) 4. 3/4, 8-3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 44.02s. ₹45 (w), 13, 15 and 16 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 50, SHW: 17 and 39, FP: 169, Q: 104, Tanala: 1,050. Favourite: City Cruise. Owner: Mr. Md. Sultan. Trainer: M.F. Ali Khan.

3. NEARCO PLATE (1,400M): MISTY NIGHT (R.S. Jodha) 1, Federer (H.M. Akshay) 2, Normui (Mukesh K) 3 and Tiger Ruby (Uday Kiran) 4. 6-1/2, Neck and 3-1/2. 1m, 27.90s. ₹15 (w), 10, 11 and 16 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 39, SHW: 13 and 13, FP: 64, Q: 65, Tanala: 140. Favourite: Misty Night. Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

4. PAKHAL LAKE CUP (DIV. II) (1,200M): CALABASAS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Mexican Wave (R.S. Jodha) 2, Stars Envied (G. Naresh) 3 and Shoolin (B. Nikhil) 4. Not run: Classy Dame. 6, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m, 15.27s. ₹23 (w), 10, 11 and 10 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 69, SHW: 10 and 27, FP: 124, Q: 91, Tanala: 235. Favourite: Stars Envied. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy, Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

5. HIDDEN BLOOM PLATE (1,400M): SUGAR (Afroz Khan) 1, Decoy (Mukesh K) 2, Encore (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Maverick (Santosh Raj) 4. Not run: Best Buddy. Neck, 2-1/4 and 4-1/4. 1m, 27.15s. ₹73 (w), 25, 16 and 37 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 179, SHW: 56 and 24, FP: 553, Q: 177, Tanala: 7,478. Favourite: Pleasant Star. Owner: Mr. Y. Damodar. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

Rewarding a champion: Madhab Adhikari of Coromandel Intl. Ltd., right, presenting the winner's trophy to Gachchhatu's owners Karan Sundarji, Ramesh Kumar Varma, and Vara Prasad Reddy. G. RAMAKRISHNA

NOTE: Pleasant Star (Akshay Kumar up) jumped out awkwardly and dislodged the rider who escaped unhurt.

6. COROMANDEL GROMOR DECCAN FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (GRADE III) (1,600M): GACHCHHATU (SANUS PER AQUAM-SENORA BELLA) (NEERAJ RAWAL) 1, Northern Waves (Dreamfield-With The Wind) (Mukesh K) 2, Mountain Jewel (Deauville-Kanchenjunga) (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Moon Star (Leitir Mor-Stravella) (Srinath) 4. 2-1/4, Nose and 1-1/4. 1m, 40.24s. ₹24 (w), 12, 30 and 16 (p). SHP: 73, THP: 58, SHW: 12 and 46, FP: 288, Q: 149, Tanala: 2,490. Favourite: Gachchhatu. Owners: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy, Mr. N. Shyam Sunder & Mr. D.N. Kempegowda. Trainer: N. Rawal.

7. PAKHAL LAKE CUP (DIV. I) (1,200M): STAR OF OPERA (Mukesh Kumar) 1, American Flame (H.M. Akshay) 2, Top In Class (Shivansh) 3 and Lady Jane (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 12-1/2, 5-1/4 and 4-3/4. 1m, 14.77s. ₹11 (w), 10, 16 and 14 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 60, SHW: 10 and 18, FP: 27, Q: 26, Tanala: 171. Favourite: Star Of Opera. Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. Suchit Jayraj Shah & Mr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto. Jackpot: 70%: ₹2,436 (93 tkts.) & 30%: 859 (113 tkts.). Treble: (i) 226 (92 tkts.), (ii) 675 (40 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: 934 (32 tkts.).

How the new tiebreakers have sparked a buzz

The move to eliminate draws is a highly anticipated format tweak; League official says initial hiccups have been overcome

Revving it up: The tie-breaker in the league stage is a new addition to the PKL.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PKL

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Pro Kabaddi League's Bazball-esque elimination of draws, introduced with tiebreakers in the league stage, was a highly anticipated format tweak this season.

The league was presented the chance on the opening day in Visakhapatnam, with Bengaluru Bulls and Puneri Paltan finishing on level terms at the end of regulation time. However, the tiebreaker itself began on chaotic terms with a nearly 15-minute-long delay before action got underway. Paltan eventually won 6-4.

Less than 24 hours later, Gujarat Giants and U Mumba carried their fixture to the tiebreaker. But something had changed overnight. Lessons were learnt, creases were ironed, and a dramatic finish went U Mumba's way 6-5.

"There was a delay on day one because we didn't receive the lineup on time from the coach. It took three minutes to collect the line-up from the coach himself," PKL's technical director Ejjapureddi Prasad Rao told *The Hindu*. "From both coaches, we take the line-ups, go to the control room, and type it out, which is when the world will get to see it on screen. To speed things up, we've eliminated the routing through the control room. Coaches will now give pre-decided lists before the game begins. We will allow the coach time to confirm this list. This is to account for injuries, particularly," Rao explained.

A fortnight-long training camp was held for referees and match officials prior to the league in Hyderabad. But simulations can only prepare you so much for actual match conditions.

"We are dealing with two coaches - one who is happy the game is into a tiebreaker and another who is unhappy because he's lost a winning position to now deal with the tiebreaker. Officials have to wait. We can't time them out and give technical points. All of this has been considered."

Azharuddeen replaces Tilak as South captain in Duleep Trophy

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Kerala batter Mohammed Azharuddeen on Sunday replaced Tilak Varma as the South Zone captain for the Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone, starting at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on Thursday.

Tilak will not be playing the Duleep Trophy after he was named in the Indian squad for the upcoming Asia Cup. Azharuddeen was the vice-captain of the side, and now that role has been handed to Tamil Nadu's N. Jagadeesan.

Tamil Nadu left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore too will not be playing in the semifinal as he is recuperating from a hand injury that forced him to skip the Buchi Babu tournament.

Ankit Sharma of Puducherry and Shaikh Rasheed of Andhra have been added to the squad. Both were named standbys earlier. Ankit is a left-arm spinner, with 168 wickets from 68 First Class matches, while Rasheed is a 20-year-old top-order batter, who has made 1204 runs from 19 Ranji Trophy games.

Revised South Zone squad: Mohammed Azharuddeen (Capt.), Tanmay Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal, Mohit Kale, Salman Nizar, N. Jagadeesan, Tripurana Vijay, Tanay Thyagarajan, V. Vyshak, M.D. Nidheesh, Ricky Bhui, N.P. Basil, Gurjapneet Singh, Snehal Kauthankar, Ankit Sharma, Shaikh Rasheed.

Standbys: Mohit Redkar, R. Smaran, Eden Apple Tom, Andre Siddarth.

Olympic champ Sifan, Kiros break course records on way to victory

SYDNEY MARATHON

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Smooth run: Sifan and Kiros dominated their respective events.
REUTERS

Sifan Hassan and Hailemaryam Kiros shattered the course records on Sunday to secure victory in the women's and men's races respectively at the Sydney Marathon.

Run for the first time as one of the elite World Marathon Majors, Olympic champion Sifan was utterly dominant, surging home in 2hrs 18min 22sec ahead of Brigid Kosgei. Ethiopia's Workenesh Edesa Gurmesa won the race last year in a record time, but Dutch star Sifan obliterated it by more than three minutes. Kiros also powered home in a new record time, crossing the finish line at the Sydney Opera House in 2:06.06, around 10s clear of fellow Ethiopian Addisu Gobena. Kiros and Gobena led a seven-man breakaway before the pair opened up a gap between the chasing pack and couldn't be caught.

Kiros made his move within 1km of the finish line to shave more than a minute off the previous record set last year by Kenya's Brimin Misoi.

The women's race narrowed down to just five leaders early on before Hassan opened a commanding 40s gap as she came through 35km before powering home.

Switzerland's Marcel Hug won the men's wheelchair race and American Susannah Scaroni the women's.

I'm addicted to boxing and hungry for medals: Lovlina

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Lovlina Borgohain had considered retiring from boxing to focus on her academy, but she set those thoughts aside after missing out on a medal at the Paris Games.

The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist has been away from international competition since the Paris Games last August.

In the time away from the ring, she focused on setting up her academy, which was inaugurated in June in Guwahati.

"When I thought about starting my academy, I had planned to play until Paris (Olympics), and then maybe quit playing," Lovlina said. "But the result in Paris wasn't what I had expected. Had I won a medal there, that could have been my farewell."

In Paris, the 27-year-old came close to winning back-to-back Olympic medals but lost in the quarterfinals of the women's middleweight (75kg) division to Li Qian of China.

The Assam boxer is gearing up for her international comeback at the upcoming World Championships on September 4.

"I'll be competing internationally after a long break. I got only a month to prepare, so I have been working on endurance and also on strength," she added.

"I'm addicted to boxing and still hungry for more medals. But my time away from the ring has been rewarding. I was working on my academy. It was a very fulfilling experience, somewhere even better than winning a medal," the boxing champion said. "There won't just be one Lovlina from Assam, but many. I always dreamt of giving back to the country."

Brief pause: The boxing star took her time out to set up her academy but is now gearing up for the grand stage. AP

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